



VOLUME 20, NUMBER 1

World Gifted

NEWSLETTER OF THE WORLD COUNCIL FOR GIFTED AND TALENTED CHILDREN



A Message from the President

From the beginning the program for the 14th biennial World Council Conference has been a challenge. Normally the Call for Proposals for World Council Conferences generates 100 to 150 proposals. The conference to be held in Barcelona this summer generated over 380 proposals. It is usual that many proposals are incomplete or unqualified and do not warrant inclusion in the program; however, a very large percentage of proposals for this conference were interesting, exciting, and needed to be scheduled into the program. To arrange for such a bounty of ideas, research findings, and innovative reports of successful current practice required several modifications to the usual format for scheduling. The sessions are more numerous, with more than 100 sessions plus a plenary session each day; they start earlier giving early risers a

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Gifted Education Movement in Mexico

By JANET SÁENZ, AMEXPAS President and World Council Delegate for Mexico

Mexico has made great progress in the development of training programs for classroom teachers, identification procedures for gifted children, organization of seminars and conferences—especially in the last four years. In 1996 Barbara Clark gave presentations to parents and teachers in both Mexico City and at the University of Tlaxcala. She motivated and counseled a group of interested persons in how to start a national association for gifted. Soon after, seven parents and educators met weekly for over a year to write the bylaws.

In 1997 the Mexican Association for the Gifted (AMEXPAS) was registered as a nonprofit association with Janet Sáenz elected president.

In 1999 AMEXPAS held its' First International Congress in Monterrey, the capital city of the State of Nuevo Leon. Joseph Renzulli, Sally Reis, and Carol Schlichter were invited to be the featured speakers. The State Secretary of Education, José Martinez, inaugurated the event and over 400 participants attended. Sec. Martinez became very interested in what this association was about and he has now contracted its' president, Janet Sáenz, for a 5-year period to train public elementary classroom teachers in how to identify and develop gifted abilities in their students.

The project began with 13 schools and has now expanded to 80 schools. In the 2001–2002 school year, plans are to expand to 160 schools. AMEXPAS has de-

veloped, together with Sec. Martinez and his team, a unique model for training large groups of principals, supervisors and teachers. The program offers courses with emphasis on nontraditional identification methods including The Interest-a-Lyzer, Eight Intelligence Questionnaire and others. Higher level thinking skills, the Multiple Talent approach, portable mini-interest centers and Mind Mapping strategies are making significant changes in the public schools. The state has recently officially validated the

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2001 Elections

Four new Executive Committee Members were elected in a very close race. Serving for the 2001–2005 term are: Sandra Kaplan, USA; Shirley Kokot, South Africa; Maria McCann, Australia; and Talsir Subhi Yamin, Jordan.

The proposed by-law amendment passed by an overwhelming majority.

See page 00 for Delegate election results. Delegates, please make note of the following meeting dates during the conference in Barcelona.

Delegate Meetings

1999–2001 and 2001–2003 Delegates
July 31, 2001, 3:30–5:30 PM

2001–2003 Delegates
August 1, 2001, 5:30–7:00 PM

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The World Council for Gifted and Talented Children, Inc. (WCGTC)

is a nonprofit international organization dedicated to the needs of gifted and talented children throughout the world. For membership information contact Headquarters:

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WORLD COUNCIL PUBLICATIONS

World Gifted is the newsletter of the World Council. Published three times a year, it contains the latest news and information concerning the organization, its membership, and the international gifted education community. It is produced and edited by Sheila Madsen and Barbara Clark. Any article or portion thereof may be reprinted as desired with credit given to the source. Send all news and articles for future editions to Headquarters.

Gifted and Talented International, refereed by an editorial review board of leading international gifted educators, is the official journal of the World Council. The purpose of the journal is to share current theory, research, and practice in gifted education with its audience of international educators, scholars, researchers, and parents and is published twice a year. Prospective authors are requested to submit manuscripts or queries to:

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Klaus Urban Germany	President-Elect
Shirley Kokot South Africa	Secretary
Janice Leroux Canada	Treasurer
Den-Mo Tsai Taiwan	Member
Juan A. Alonso Spain	Member
Utami Munandar Indonesia	Member

Calendar

July 31–August 4, 2001

14th Biennial World Conference World Council for Gifted and Talented Children

"The World of Information: Opportunities and Challenges for the Gifted and Talented"

Barceló Hotel Sants
Barcelona, Spain
For information, contact:
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www.WorldGifted.org

August 19–20, 2001

4th Biennial Australasian Gifted Conference

"Creativity and Diversity"
Melbourne, Australia

November 7–11, 2001

48th Annual Convention National Association for Gifted Children (NAGC - USA)

"Building New Frontiers"
Cincinnati, OH, USA

2002

7th Annual Conference Asia-Pacific Federation Bangkok, Thailand

August 4–8, 2002

European Council for High Ability (ECHA) Conference

Israel
For information, contact: Sagit Ishay,
Conference Coordinator
ech@ortra.co.il

HELP!

World Council Bulletin Board Messages Go Unanswered

During the 1999 Istanbul conference delegates requested that a bulletin board be offered on the World Council website to facilitate communication and promote dialogue between members. Shortly after the conference, *Global Connections—A Bulletin Board*, was created. However, numerous messages, mainly questions from around the world are languishing...waiting for an answer from you—the experts. Please visit the World Council website at www.worldgifted.org and offer your advice and expertise to these sometimes desperate folks.

Share your Ideas with the world...

Submit an article to *Gifted and Talented International*, the World Council's peer-reviewed journal. Published twice a year, the journal presents current theory, research, and practice in gifted education for educators and parents.

Submit manuscripts to

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News from Around the World

FROM CANADA

Gifted Education in Canada

In a special issue of *AGATE*, the journal of the Gifted and Talented Education Council (GTEC) of the Alberta Teachers' Association, contributors from Alberta stakeholder groups (teachers, parents, university, and government) assess the state of gifted education at the beginning of the new millennium. In addition, contributors from other provinces and territories within Canada describe the past, present, and future of gifted education in their respective jurisdictions. The general message seems to be similar across the country: general caution about the impact of inclusive education on the educational experiences of gifted children in regular classrooms, concern about the effect of funding cutbacks on provision of appropriate services for children with special needs, and guarded optimism about recent developments that hold promise of greater appreciation of the need to adapt curricula and educational practices for gifted students. The issue consists of the following articles:

- Gifted Education in Alberta at the Millennium
- Don Delaney. GTEC: from 1986 to 2000 (and beyond)
- Janice Peters. Alberta Associations for Bright Children: The First 20 Years
- Sal Mendaglio and Michael Pyryt. Centre for Gifted Education: Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow
- Garnet Millar. Looking Backward and Forward at the Millennium: An Alberta Learning Perspective
- Marion Porath. Past, Present, and Future of Gifted Education in British Columbia
- Ken W. McCluskey and Annabelle M. Mays. Gifted Education, Enrichment, and Talent Development: Perspectives from Manitoba
- Dona J. Matthews and Elizabeth M. Smyth. Gifted Learners in Ontario Enter the New Millennium: "Common Sense" Style
- Line Masse. Gifted Education in Que-

bec: A Short Past, a Few Appearances, and Almost No Future!

- Leonard Goguen. Inclusion and Giftedness in New Brunswick
- Alan Edmunds, Jill Blaikie, and Lesley Cunningham. Gifted Education in Nova Scotia
- Vianne Timmons and Cindy L. Wood. An Oral History of Gifted Education in Prince Edward Island
- Eva Whitmore. Educational Provisions for Gifted and Talented Students in Newfoundland and Labrador 1980–2000: A View from the Trenches
- Darlene M. DeMerchant and Shirley Tagalik. Building Inuit Qaujima-jatuqangit Schools in Nunavut

For further information or to obtain copies of the issue (*AGATE* vol 14, no 2, Fall 2000), contact The Gifted and Talented Education Council, Alberta Teachers' Association, Barnett House, 11010 142 Street NW, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada T5N 2R1.

AGATE is also available on microfilm from Canadian Education Index, Micro-media Ltd., Acquisitions/CEI, 20 Victoria St., Toronto, Ontario, Canada M5C 2N8.

Submitted by Carolyn Yewchuk
WCGTC Delegate, Canada



FROM GERMANY

Creativity's Global Correspondents

The World Council's last Creativity Award Winner Morris I. Stein, Professor Emeritus, Psychology, New York University, has published the new 2001 issue of *Creativity's Global Correspondents*, with support from Winslow Press. This is the fifth publication of the series, Stein started in 1997. This year's report contains 270 pages with 36 works on creativity from 39 investigators who represent 20 different countries around the world. You can find articles by well-known researchers in the "gifted scene" who you might meet at our World Conference. Contributors in-

clude Miraca U. M. Gross from Australia, Eunice M. L. Soriano de Alencar from Brazil, Helen Siu Yin Ku-Yu from Hong Kong, Erika Landau and Roberta M. Milgram from Israel, Maria de Fatima Morais da Silva and Fernando C. Sousa from Portugal, Kobus Neethling, South Africa, and Joan Freeman from United Kingdom to name a few. If you are interested in this new volume or previous issues, contact:

Winslow Press, 770 East Atlantic Avenue, Suite 201, Delray Beach, Florida 33483, 800-617-3947, Fax: 561-274-8533, e-mail: winslow@winslowpress.com.

Submitted by Klaus Urban
WCGTC President Elect, Germany



FROM MEXICO

Children's Museum

Dr. Cuitláhuac González, Mexico's Delegate to the World Council for Gifted and Talented Children, with the help of the University of Juárez, Niños Brillantes School, the Astronomy Society of Juárez, the Paseo Del Norte YMCA, and Discover México, sponsored a Children's Museum in Juárez, Mexico, on March 24 and 25, 2001.

Interactive pavilions were created to provide children the opportunity to discover, explore, and develop an interest in science, art, technology, and music. Pavilion topics included: nutrition for children, medicine (the human body), astronomy, computers, art projects (hands-on activities using recyclable materials), construction, and yoga for children. At night the Astronomy Society of Juárez set up professional telescopes to observe the moons of Jupiter.

Other noted participants included Dr. C. June Maker, author of *DISCOVER* Projects of the University of Arizona, and Linda Wadsworth, Secondary Gifted Dept. Chairperson for the Roswell New Mexico school system. A gallery of children's artwork from Roswell, NM, Tucson, AZ, and Juárez was on display.

The event was a great success with over 1000 children from both Juárez and El Paso in attendance.

News from Around the World

Dr. González will speak at the Barcelona Conference on August 1 about his project school, Niños Brillantes.

Submitted by Cuitláhuac González

WCGTC Delegate, Mexico



FROM QATAR

The Qatari Centre for the Gifted and Talented

In an effort to provide a platform for a national program designed to meet the special needs of gifted and talented children, the Qatari Centre for the Gifted and Talented (QC/GT) was established in Doha-Qatar in April, 2001. It is founded and directed by Dr. Taisir Subhi Yamin (WCGTC delegate for Jordan).

The QC/GT will foster the educational and social development of gifted and talented children by creating an environment in which these children are recognized, understood, and valued and in which the special needs of gifted children are met fully, effectively, and with generosity.

The QC/GT's mission is: to advance education by informing, advocating, and supporting the social and emotional development, legal rights, and general well-being of gifted and talented children in Qatar.

The centre serves as a vehicle for providing the kinds of intellectual leadership necessary for the further stimulation, advancement, and improvement of theory, research, and practice in the field. In this regard, the centre serves as an integrated forum for scholars and practitioners to come together and pool their resources.

It is clear that the major purposes of the QC/GT are to extend the educational context from preschool through post-secondary education, and offer all types of provisions that influence the full development of the gifted and talented individual.

One of the major assumptions underlying the centre is that effective programming for gifted and talented children

is not a function of schools alone. The QC/GT supports and engages in research and development, staff development, advocacy, communication, and collaboration with other organizations and agencies who strive to improve the quality of education for all students. The QC/GT is principally engaged in assisting children with outstanding gifts and talents to fulfill their potential and to give support to parents, teachers, and others professionally concerned with their development. In addition, the establishment of the QC/GT is based on a number of principles including:

- Gifted and talented children should be identified as early as possible. This process requires the utilization of formal and informal measures obtained from many sources in a wide variety of settings;
- The focus of identification is not to label students but to recognize and respond to gifted and talented students' educational needs;
- The needs of gifted and talented children are best met when parents, students, education professionals, and schools and colleges are able to share a common forum and gain wider understanding of home/school issues.

In sum, the QC/GT seeks to:

- Encourage the improvement of educational services to all students, including those that are gifted and talented; and to bring gifted children together to find companionship and support through a variety of challenging activities;
- Support appropriate educational opportunities for gifted and talented students;
- Offer training for parents and teachers of gifted and talented students;
- Disseminate information about opportunities for gifted and talented students as well as for parents and teachers of these students;
- Inform the general public of the needs of gifted and talented students; in addition to enhance the public's mindset about persons who are gifted and talented;

- Assist parents, educators, and public officials in identifying and assessing resources to meet the needs of students who are gifted and talented;
- Secure permanent state funding to provide appropriate education for gifted and talented students in every school;
- Fund, direct, and coordinate research, scholarships, and training of personnel in the field of gifted education;
- Examine "Best Practices" revealed in current research and increase the relevancy and utilization of these "best practices" to guide implementation of gifted education;
- Encourage action research and other initiatives that would benefit the education of gifted and talented students;
- Ensure public policy implementation and work to ensure responsive and positive policies concerning the education of gifted and talented students.

For further information:

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Submitted by Taisir Subhi Yamin

WCGTC Delegate, Jordan



FROM SOUTH AFRICA

South Africa Looks Forward!

Those who are following the changes in political and education policy in South Africa may be interested in hearing the latest success scored by the National Association of Gifted and Talented Children in South Africa. Following a national conference in September of last year, the education department of the Gauteng Province invited representatives of the association to inform teachers about the needs of gifted learners and ways of accommodating these needs in regular classrooms during a 3-hour presentation at a regional conference on "Inclusion" to be held in July. This signifies an enormous

leap forward for gifted children in this country—and gives hope to all of us around the world who work for the benefit of gifted learners. With perseverance we are heard and doors do open. We in South Africa are grateful for the ongoing support from organizations outside our borders that help us to justify our insistence on being heard. We need to continue to stand together in our attempts to make this happen in all those countries who are struggling against authorities who do not support the idea of giftedness. *We hope to meet you in Barcelona!*

Submitted by Shirley Kokot
WCGTC Delegate and member of the
Executive Committee from South Africa



FROM TAIWAN

Cooperation Across the Taiwan Strait

The Chinese Association of Gifted Education in Taiwan and the Professional Committee of the Super Normal Talented in China are working together to publish a series of books for gifted education. Organized by Professors Wu-tien Wu and Tze-Suiy Cha, 29 professors from Taiwan and 28 professors from China are cooperatively writing books. The series includes nine books. The titles are:

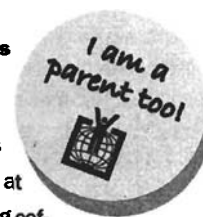
- Introduction of Gifted Education
- Identification and Assessment of Gifted Students
- Curriculum and Instruction in Gifted Education
- Creativity Development and Training of Gifted Students
- Leadership Training
- Mental Health and Counseling of Gifted Students
- Education and Cognitive Development of Gifted Students
- Parenting for Gifted Children
- Gifted Education for Particular Groups

The nine-book series is scheduled for publication in October 2001

Submitted by Den-Mo Tsai
WCGTC Executive Committee Member,
Taiwan R.O.C.

Calling All Parents to Barcelona!

By SHIRLEY KOKOT and SHARON FREITAS
World Conference Parent Committee Organizers



A comucopia of World Conference workshops, discussions, and get-acquainted meetings are being planned for participants who "are parents too." Stop by the "Welcome Parents" table at registration and receive an invitation to an early Wednesday morning coffee, an agenda for Thursday's Biennial Parent Meeting, a special sticker for your name badge—"I Am A Parent Too!" and a variety of brochures listing resources. More than 20 sessions especially designed for parents will be offered over the four-day conference with presenters from around the world as well as a roundtable discussion.

The topics address proven strategies on raising and enriching gifted children, creating a favorable family atmosphere, increasing their emotional intelligence, and solving specific problems experienced by gifted children. There will also be a clinic for a limited number of parents where you can discuss your specific situation. And at every presentation, but especially during the roundtable discussion, parents are invited to bring their problems along to be aired, shared, and hopefully solved!

If you are a parent and planning to attend the World Conference, please let us know that you are coming so that we can be ready to greet you. We would also be happy to have your help at the "Welcome Parents" table in the registration area—this is a great way to meet everybody! Also let us know ahead of time about your particular concerns or interests. This will help us make the conference more personally meaningful for you although we have tried to include the suggestions made by parents at the Istanbul conference in 1999. So if you are "a parent too," send us a message at the following addresses: kokot@icon.co.za or to World Council webmaster at worldgt@earthlink.net. We need and value your knowledge and experiences. See you in Spain. Olé. ■

14th Biennial World Conference GALA DINNER

Relax with your friends and colleagues and enjoy an evening of fine Catalan dining in the ambience of Can Travi Nou, a typical 17th century Catalan farmhouse. Reserve early—seating is limited. Include your order on the conference registration form, p. 0.

Date: Friday, August 3, 2001 8:00–11:00 pm

Cost: US\$35/person



Attention Delegates!

The 1999-2001 and 2001-2003 Delegates meeting will focus on the activities of the Delegates during the past 2 years. Information learned from this 2-year experience that might improve the service of the Delegates will be shared. An overview of the activities of the organization will be given. While only the 1999-2001 Delegates will be officially seated at this meeting the incoming Delegates are urged to attend to gain information and ideas that will contribute to their effectiveness as future Delegates.

Delegates for the 2001-2003 term meet for the purpose of setting goals for the next 2 years. Plans for providing service to the countries they are to serve will be discussed.

Each country represented on the World Council is eligible to send three Delegates to these meetings. The Delegates have the duties of:

- Promoting nationally the purposes of the World Council;
- Raising the profile of the World Council in their country's media;

- Providing the publications editors and the Executive Committee with news and progress reports;
- Disseminating the work of the World Council, its conferences, and its committees to their country's membership;
- Organizing the biennial Delegates election in their country;
- Supporting the activities of their own national organizations for gifted and talented children;
- Raising funds from industry, commerce, and governments in pursuit of the goals of the organization;
- Developing links with other educational organizations that work for the welfare of children;
- Influencing and encouraging national research on major issues in the field of gifted and talented education;
- Supporting regional gifted conferences, and seminars;
- Reporting in writing the progress of their country's activities and those of

the Delegates in promoting the goals and aims of the World Council at each business meeting of the Assembly of Delegates at each World Council Biennial Conference.

- Serving as a contact person for members in their country.

During this meeting one Delegate from each country will be selected by the team of Delegates to take responsibility for each of the following tasks:

- Provide Headquarters with news and progress reports for the newsletters, and articles for journal publication.
- Organize the biennial election in their country and report the results and designated assignments to Headquarters.
- Report the progress of their country and their activities in promoting the goals and aims of the World Council to their Executive Committee liaison and Headquarters once a year in writing.

The Executive Committee will be available for information and questions. (See p. 1 for meeting dates and times.) ■

2001-2003 World Council Delegates

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Delegate election results were not received from the following countries. If you are interested in serving as a Delegate, contact Headquarters for information.

Finland	South Africa
France	Sweden
Hong Kong	Thailand
India	UAE
Italy	
Japan	
Kazakhstan	
Kuwait	
Macedonia	
Morocco	
Nigeria	
Palestine	
Russia	
Singapore	

14th Biennial World Conference
WORLD COUNCIL FOR GIFTED AND TALENTED CHILDREN
July 31–August 4, 2001 Barcelona, Spain
Program

Monday, July 30, 2001

8:00 AM–7:00 PM Registration
9:00 AM–9:00 PM Executive Committee Meeting (current committee), Paral.lel

Tuesday, July 31, 2001

8:00 AM–7:00 PM Registration
9:00 AM–12:00 PM Pre-Conference
1:30–3:00 PM Executive Committee Meeting (current committee), Paral.lel
3:30–5:00 PM Delegates Meeting (current & new Delegates), Saló Sants-Montjuic
7:30–9:30 PM Opening Ceremony, Gran Saló Barcelona
9:30–11:00 PM **President's Welcome Reception**, Foyer

Wednesday, August 1, 2001

7:30–8:45 AM Sessions
8:00 AM–5:00 PM Registration
9:00–10:15 AM Plenary, **Todd Siler**, USA, "Tapping the Creative Power of the Gifted and Talented: The Future of Education in a Civil Society"
10:30 AM–12:45 PM Sessions
12:45–2:00 PM Lunch on your own
2:00–5:30 PM Sessions
5:45–7:00 PM Delegates Meeting (new Delegates), Saló Sants-Montjuic
8:00–11:00 PM **Catalonian Dinner**, Gran Saló Barcelona

Thursday, August 2, 2001

7:30–8:45 AM Sessions
8:00 AM–5:00 PM Registration
9:00–10:15 AM Plenary, A. Harry Passow Lecture, **Lannie Kanevsky**, Canada, "Personalizing the Education of Gifted Individuals"
10:30 AM–12:45 PM Sessions
12:45–2:00 PM Lunch on your own
2:00–5:30 PM Sessions
6:00–7:30 PM General Assembly (Current World Council Members)
8:00–11:00 PM Optional Evening Tours

Friday, August 3, 2001

7:30–8:45 AM Sessions
9:00–10:15 AM Plenary, **Deborah Eyre**, UK, "Improving Provision for the Gifted in Ordinary Schools: The Evolutionary Approach"
10:30 AM–12:45 PM Sessions
12:45–2:00 PM Lunch on your own
2:00–5:30 PM Sessions
8:00–11:00 PM Optional Gala Dinner, Can Trevi Nou

Saturday, August 4, 2001

7:45–9:45 AM Sessions
10:15 AM–1:00 PM Closing Ceremony
Technology Panel
Youth Summit Report
2003 World Conference
1:30–9:00 PM Executive Committee Meeting (new committee), Salon Paral.lel

LOOK WHAT'S WAITING FOR YOU IN BARCELONA! miró • lots and lots of museums • tapas •



WORLD COUNCIL FOR GIFTED AND TALENTED CHILDREN

2001 WORLD CONFERENCE

July 31–August 4, 2001

Barceló Hotel Sants • Barcelona, Spain



The 14th Biennial Conference of the World Council for Gifted and Talented Children brings together a global multicultural community of educators, parents, researchers, and members of business and government, all sharing a common goal—to support the education of gifted and talented youth worldwide.

PRE-CONFERENCE, July 31, 2001

Half-day pre-conference sessions provide in-depth presentations with ample time for questions and answers.

CONFERENCE, August 1-4, 2001

The academic program includes daily plenaries, panels, symposia, research papers, poster sessions, and workshops covering both theory and practice. Presenters from over 40 nations will share their expertise and experiences with you in more than 300 sessions. Featured speakers include:

Eunice Soriano de Alencar, Brazil
Juan Alonso, Spain
Yolanda Benito, Spain
Jean Christian Brunault, France
Carolyn Callahan, USA
Barbara Clark, USA
Carmen Cretu, Romania
Deborah Eyre, UK
Jose Martinez, Mexico
Joan Freeman, UK
James Gallagher, USA
Lannie Kanevsky, Canada
Erika Landau, Israel
June Maker, USA
Maria McCann, Australia
Jose Moro, Spain
Diane Montgomery, UK
Sally Reis, USA
Joseph Renzulli, USA
Janet Saenz, Mexico
Todd Siler, USA
Javier Touron, Spain
Den-Mo Tsai, Taiwan ROC
Klaus Urban, Germany

AND MORE...Evening Tours, Half-day & Full-day Tours, Pre- and Post-Conference Tours, Gala Dinner, Parent and Technology Strands

For details and information, contact:

World Council for Gifted and Talented Children
18401 Hiawatha Street, Northridge, CA 91326 USA
Tel: 818-368-7501 Fax: 818-368-2163
e-mail: WorldGT@earthlink.net www.WorldGifted.org

Centro Huerta del Rey
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Phone/fax: 34-983-34-13-82
e-mail: c_h_rey@correo.cop.es www.tds.es/c_h_rey

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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session to attend at 7:30 am; and they are a bit shorter lasting 30 minutes instead of 45 minutes so that all of those who offered great presentations could be heard.

From Wednesday, August 1 each day will include a plenary session at 9:00 am during which international speakers such as Deborah Eyre from the UK, Todd Siler from the US, or Lannie Kanevsky from Canada will enrich our day with thought-provoking messages and challenging ideas.

There are three symposia and/or featured speakers each hour from 10:30 am to 5:30 pm. Each symposium has multiple speakers, often from several countries exploring topics that range from reversing underachievement to fostering creativity; from a presentation of a 10 year synthesis of research from the National Research Center for Gifted and Talented in the United States to the results of a cross-cultural study on the perceptions of gifted behavior from 10 countries around the world. The symposia were often formed with six to nine presenters and a few having but

three presenters. In some cases the number of noted presenters and the abundance of information has resulted in the scheduling of double sessions over 2 hours in length.

You will find featured in the program for the 14th biennial World Council Conference well-known speakers who will address a wealth of topics such as the changing views of gifted education, methods for differentiating content for gifted students, ideas for developing autonomous learners, challenges and choices for gifted females, best practices for teaching gifted students, and effective curriculum reform. Leaders from the European Council for High Ability, the early identification project in Romania, the Office of Professional Development and Provision in Victoria, Australia; the Eurotalent Project from France, and the Ministry of Mexico among others will share their unique perspectives on improving gifted education.

This is the actual program, but there is so much more. On Tuesday, July 31 pre-conference workshops will begin at 9:00 am and continue until noon. They will explore topics such as the gifted brain, assessing and nurturing creativ-

ity, giftedness and associated disorders, and a program for multi-cultural students. Later that day the Opening of the Conference involves all attending in the excitement of Spain and allows us an opportunity to greet old friends and make new colleagues. Each evening Spain and especially the Barcelona area reveals its beauty, its customs, and its history as we tour, dine, and become involved with the sites and sounds of Catalan. Throughout you will find the challenges of technology ever-present at the Cyber Corner, posters raising new questions in the halls, and a newly organized focus on parenting presented and supported.

The conference comes to a close with an exploration of technology and space guided by those who design educational experiences to communicate and help others understand the international pursuits and achievements of our space age. We will leave each other as we came together with new challenges, and even higher expectations. What is planned will only be a part of what we will experience for such a richly provisioned conference is bound to have more waiting for us than can possibly be known. See you in Barcelona!! ■

GIFTED EDUCATION—MEXICO

continued from 1

AMEXPAS-Nuevo Leon Program by giving teachers, who participate on a voluntary basis, credits toward salary increments.

The Autonomous University of Tlaxcala (UAT) has implemented the only M.A. degree in Latin America in Education of the Gifted and helped to sponsor the Second International Congress of the association in the Spring semester of 2000 by offering all the facilities on their main campus for this event. With a focus on the development of abilities in science, JPL-NASA sent six experts: Cesar Sepulveda (Mexican scientist and expert in optical lenses), Michelle Thaller, (senior scientist at Caltech), Richard Shope (sci-

ence education expert), Alejandro Levi (engineer and scientist), and Gilbert Clark (expert in telescopes), who contributed their knowledge, expertise, and help in motivating young people to develop their abilities in science, mathematics, and technology. A beautiful Tlaxcaltecan dinner was held in a 16th Century Hacienda (Santa Maria Xalostoc), where the NASA scientists organized a telescope viewing session for all the young people and "The Trio Los Soberanos" presented a concert of Bolero music.

James Cross of the University of North California made important contributions: nurturing and encouraging the development of creative problem-solving abilities; fine arts programs for gifted in North Carolina, and characteristics of

creative and gifted students.

The California Association for the Gifted (CAG) awarded AMEXPAS the status of Global Affiliate, which was a special recognition for all the years of work to organize special events, courses, and finally a national association! Also, Janet Sáenz was honored by AUT as Professor Emeritus for her more than 30 years of academic work in Mexican universities in preparing teachers for both public and private schools in many parts of the country. Special mention was made of her research in rural and urban areas and her many contributions in the area of gifted education. She is at present working on two books which should make an important contribution to the development of programs for the gifted in Mexico and Latin America.

In the fall of 2000, AMEXPAS organized its first International Seminar. James Webb, Janet Gore, and Janet Sáenz traveled to Monterrey, Mexico City, and Tlaxcala concluding the tour in Tapachula, state of Chiapas. All presentations were well received and it is hoped that in a year or two a SENG-AM-EXPAS conference will be held in Aca-pulco.

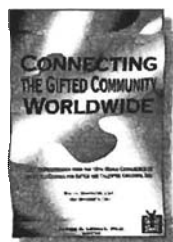
In May 2001, AMEXPAS organized its third International Conference with a focus on "Discovering Talents in our Children" with many experts in cultural areas of giftedness invited to speak. William Lowman, headmaster of the Idyllwild Arts School in California, explained how the school is set up and

the selection procedures that are followed for each area of talent (music, dance, painting, creative writing, drama, ceramics, and sculpture). Mexico's magnificent soprano Irma Gonzalez explained how her talent was discovered and developed. (She is now 85 and teaches at Mexico's Conservatory of Music where she drives to work every day! Various workshops were well attended with the titles: The Development of Emotional Intelligence in Our Children; Science and the Art of Mime; The Visual Arts in Education, and Nontraditional Methods of Discovering Talent in Mexican Children.

AMEXPAS is now occupied in planning the 15th Summer Enrichment Work-

shop (called Ultra-Plus) which is planned on a similar design to the format of the S.E.W, Summer Program for Gifted at the University of Alabama. Students ages 4-17, will attend the 3-week program which will offer courses such as: microbiology, painting and sculpture, gourmet cooking, collecting things, the magic of nature, horses and dogs, things which fly, Mexican legends, petroleum and rocks, adventures with Harry Potter, all made out of paper, and ¡Benvenuto al' Italia!

More than 15 AMEXPAS members, families, and speakers are looking forward to traveling to the World Council for Gifted and Talented Children Conference in Barcelona! ■



Connecting the Gifted Community Worldwide

Selected Proceedings from the 12th World Conference
of the World Council for Gifted and Talented Children

Edited by Janice Leroux

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