



# WorldGifted

newsletter of The World Council for Gifted and Talented Children

[www.world-gifted.org](http://www.world-gifted.org)

## World Council Moves to Western Kentucky University

The International Headquarters of the World Council for Gifted and Talented Children moved to Western Kentucky University (WKU) in Bowling Green, Kentucky on January 1, 2011. The Council relocated from the University of Winnipeg in Canada. A generous gift from Dixie and Pete Mahurin of Bowling Green made the move possible. The Mahurins have been strong supporters of gifted children and also endowed a gifted professorship at WKU in 2003.

Dr. Julia Link Roberts, Executive Director of The Center for Gifted Studies and the Mahurin Professor of Gifted Studies, said, "Bringing together people interested in gifted and talented children has been a goal of The Center for Gifted Studies for 30 years. Locating the headquarters of the World Council for Gifted and Talented Children at WKU extends the reach of The Center, and it is an honor to partner with the World Council." Dr. Roberts is one of the seven members of the Executive Committee of the World Council and current Treasurer.

The relocation kicks off The Center for Gifted Studies' 30<sup>th</sup> year celebration of providing opportunities to children who are gifted and talented, their educators, and their parents. Participants in The Center's programs have come from all 50 states and 33 countries representing six continents. In the last decade Bowling Green has experienced tremendous population growth and is home to people from around the world. It is Kentucky's third

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Executive Committee Members **Julia Roberts**, Bowling Green, Kentucky, USA; **Klaus Urban**, Stadthagen, Germany; **Leonie Kronborg**, Victoria, Australia; **Leslie Graves**, Dublin, Ireland; **Taisir Subhi Yamin**, Paris, France; **Edna McMillan**, Stoney Creek, Ontario; **Ngarmmars Kasemset**, Bangkok, Thailand.

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### Inside

### Thank You Winnipeg

Since the World Council for Gifted and Talented Children was a 1975 dream that came to fruition, our headquarters has moved around the continent. The last move was in 2005 from California to Canada. At that time, Dr. Ken McCluskey invited the World Council to move to the University of Winnipeg. At Winnipeg we had our own office, dedicated to only the work of the World Council, and an Executive Administrator with responsibility only to us. All of our materials finally had their own place and we were no longer just an extra file cabinet in someone's office. This was a great step forward for our organization. Lisa McLean worked for us for two years setting up our office, organizing our history and documents. In 2007, Cathrine Froese Klassen took over the role as Executive Administrator. With her extensive expertise she brought our office, our documents and our activities into the 21st century. Most of our activities are now on the Internet, our web-site is active, and interest in our organization continues to grow. Thank you Lisa, Cathrine, and most especially Ken for providing a setting for our organization to be truly effective. We appreciate all your work and wish you well in your future. We look forward to an equally successful stay at WKU under the leadership of Dr. Julia Roberts.

- Edna McMillan

# The WCGTC: New Horizons and Latest Developments



**Taisir Subhi Yamin  
President, WCGTC**

During the last eight months we were involved in a number of tasks and actions to promote the World Council for Gifted and Talented Children (WCGTC). The organization is gaining strength, and has made good progress during the last two years.

In January 2011, the headquarters of the WCGTC moved to Western Kentucky University (WKU). The WCGTC headquarters has brand new facilities and the move to a new headquarters has made the Council more efficient. The former headquarters office was located in Winnipeg University for five years. Thank you to Winnipeg University and Ken McCluskey for their support. Thank you, Julia Roberts, for your contributions, and for now hosting this international organization at WKU. Our commitment will always be to strengthen our network and provide the best services at the global level.

The Bylaws Committee recently finished its revisions and presented an up-to-date bylaws document for your final review, discussion, and approval. The bylaws provide the guidance and the very basis of the democratic structure and functions of the WCGTC. Thank you for taking the time to review the document we sent you, for contacting us with suggestions, and voting to ratify it.

Each two years elections take place in the Spring to replace the Executive Committee members who have finished their term. Thank you to all those who took the time to vote. Congratulations to Ümit Davaslıgil and Ken McCluskey who were elected to terms ending in 2015. The new Executive Committee consists of seven members: Taisir Subhi Yamin (President); Julia Roberts; Ken McCluskey; Klaus Urban; Leonie Kronborg; Leslie Graves; and Ümit Davaslıgil.

Upon the completion of their terms on the Executive Committee on August 12, 2011, I have the honor and pleasure to thank my friends and colleagues who served the WCGTC for several years. My warmest thanks go to Edna McMillan for her many years of service and contributions to the WCGTC as a member of the Executive Committee and the Vice President of the Council. Many special thanks also go to Ngarmmars Kasemset for her contributions. Your support over the past four years has been remarkable.

During the last year, the WCGTC has published two issues of its journal *Gifted and Talented International* (GTI.) In August 2010 a special issue about scientific

creativity and knowledge production was published. In December 2010 a new issue of GTI was published. It contains thirteen articles and four book reviews. The editorial board and the International Centre for Innovation in Education (ICIE) are also working on a number of special issues so stay tuned.

As I begin my sixth year as editor-in-chief of GTI, I realize how much GTI has changed since 2006. The number of articles and professional reviews of books per issue has doubled since December 2005 and our design and layout is also more contemporary and visually exciting. GTI has gained increasing recognition and has established itself among the internationally acknowledged and accredited peer-reviewed international journals. As a result a number of abstracting and indexing lists now include all the articles published in GTI since 2005 including ERIC and EBSCO. I hope you will find the contents of *Gifted and Talented International* interesting, fascinating, useful and informative. Many thanks go to the team of Associate Editors: Todd Lubart; Ken McCluskey; Peter Merrotsy; Trevor J. Tebbis; Dorothy A. Sisk; Heinz Neber; Hava Videregore; and Sandra Linke.

This newsletter appears before the 19<sup>th</sup> Biennial World Conference: Making a World of Difference for Gifted Children, which will take place in Prague - Czech Republic August 8-12, 2011. This conference is an excellent opportunity for teachers, researchers, parents, and students from around the world to share the most up-to-date information and the latest developments in gifted education. The 19<sup>th</sup> conference will provide the participants with the universal opportunity for interactions with lead speakers, delegates, and participants from different parts of the world.

I am grateful to the local organizing committee of the World Conference. Special thanks to Eva Vondráková (Chair, local organizing committee), and Zina Pecková (Director, CBT). This conference is an arena in which we will share our concerns, innovative educational practices, strategies and theories as we envision new horizons for a different world. On behalf of the WCGTC, I would like to congratulate all the participants for their valuable contribution to the conference. Without the energy and input of the delegates, no conference can succeed. I look forward to seeing you in Prague.

In 2013, the 20<sup>th</sup> Biennial World Conference of the WCGTC will be held in Auckland, New Zealand. This conference will provide you with the opportunity to explore the latest developments in gifted education, and to debate the future of this field of knowledge. In addition, the WCGTC will celebrate the "International Year of Giftedness and Creativity-2013." The conference will provide a program with the highest caliber of keynote speakers, and a large number of scholars and presenters alongside exhibitors. It brings together leaders in gifted education to share their knowledge, expertise, and practices in all cultures. This conference, in Auckland, will be another milestone in the journey towards leadership, creativity, and innovation.

- Taisir Subhi Yamin, President

**Tracy Cummings Harkins** has been appointed the new Executive Administrator of the World Council for Gifted and Talented Children. Ms. Harkins was formally the Community Outreach Manager at WKU Libraries where she planned, organized, and implemented one of the largest book festivals in the state, the Southern Kentucky Book Fest, as well as other large scale literary events for the region. Prior to joining WKU Libraries, Tracy was the Grants Facilitator for non-profits at the WKU ALIVE Center for Community Partnerships, Events Coordinator at Princeton University Bookstore in Princeton, NJ, and an Educational Technology Consultant with Wisconsin Public Broadcasting in Madison, Wisconsin.

She also brings a wealth of international experience to her new position with the WCGTC. Tracy was an international radio broadcaster for the Voice of America in Washington, D.C. for several years, an intern at *Good Morning America* for ABC News in London, and a student broadcaster at the Armed Forces Network in Mons, Belgium. She is a high school graduate of the International School of Brussels in Belgium. Tracy earned a Master of Science in Communications and a Bachelor of Science in Television-Radio from Ithaca College in New York. Her focus areas were cross cultural communications and collaborations. She completed coursework at neighboring Cornell University in Communications in Developing Nations and International Business, and during her college years spent a semester in London. Her Master's project involved creating a model orientation program for international students attending colleges and universities in the United States. Tracy officially started her new duties June 1.

"I am thrilled to be joining the World Council for Gifted and Talented Children and the staff of The Center for Gifted Studies," said Tracy. "Over the years I have had the pleasure of working with Dr. Julia Roberts and her staff as part of the Kentucky Association for Gifted Education and on several collaborative literacy projects. My own children have also benefitted greatly from the wonderful programs that they offer high ability students and I feel privileged to be part of such a professional and outstanding group."

**Tracy  
Cummings  
Harkins**



**joins  
World  
Council  
for Gifted  
and  
Talented  
Children  
Staff**

**Thank you to WKU graduate student Tyler Clark for handling the transition of the World Council to WKU until Tracy Harkins came on board.**

*World Council Moves...continued from page 1*

largest city and centrally located within a day's travel of nearly 60 percent of the U.S. population. Bowling Green is located approximately one hour north of Nashville, TN and is easily accessible by the Nashville International Airport and a regional airport for smaller aircraft.

The office of the World Council is located in the new \$35 million College of Education building on the WKU campus which was recently named for the current WKU President Gary Ransdell. "It is an honor for WKU to become the host institution for the World Council," said President Ransdell. "We have long placed a high premium on gifted studies and have built a reputation as the center for the education of gifted and talented young minds. Locating the World Council headquarters here will further strengthen WKU's commitment to this important priority, and, we believe, enhance the Council's work across the

globe. It is one more important way in which our vision to be a leading American university with international reach is being realized."

The World Council offices are located in room 2007 in a beautiful three-room suite. Thanks to the generosity of Lexmark International, the office is equipped with an integrated high-end printer, copier, and scanner. Sam Moore, a member of the Advisory Board of The Center for Gifted Studies made that gift possible.

Founded in 1975, the World Council's purpose is to focus world attention on gifted and talented children and ensure the realization of their valuable potential to the benefit of humankind. In addition to holding the biennial conference that facilitates worldwide communication of information, ideas, and experiences, the Council publishes the journal *Gifted and Talented International* and this newsletter *World Gifted*.





# Join us at the 19<sup>th</sup> World Conference in Prague

## Read All About It

For information in English prior to your visit to Prague check out *The Prague Post* newspaper at **[www.praguepost.com](http://www.praguepost.com)**. The Czech Republic's only English weekly newspaper was launched in 1991 after the Velvet Revolution. A digital edition is also available on the Amazon Kindle.

Share your knowledge and learn from educators from around the world at the 19<sup>th</sup> Biennial World Conference in Prague - Czech Republic, the official conference of the WCGTC. This unique, international event brings together leaders in the field of gifted and talented education every two years to promote communication among one another and share best practices and experiences. The WCGTC has organized this year's conference in partnership with the Association for Talent and Giftedness (Společnost pro talent a nadání, o.s. (STaN)), the Czech Technical University in Prague, and Masaryk University. The conference is sponsored by The Czech-Moravian Psychological Society (CMPS) and Pearson.

Prague, a city of 1,200,000, is the capital and largest city of the Czech Republic. It has been a political, cultural and economic center of Europe and particularly central Europe during its 1100 year existence. Prague was at one time the capital of the Holy Roman Empire and later an important city in the Habsburg Monarchy and the Austro Hungarian Empire and after World War I became capital of Czechoslovakia. The city played major roles in the Protestant Reformation, the Thirty Years' War, and in 20<sup>th</sup> century history during both World Wars and the post communist era. Prague is home to a number of famous cultural attractions, many of which survived the violence and destruction of twentieth century Europe. Prague is classified as a Global City

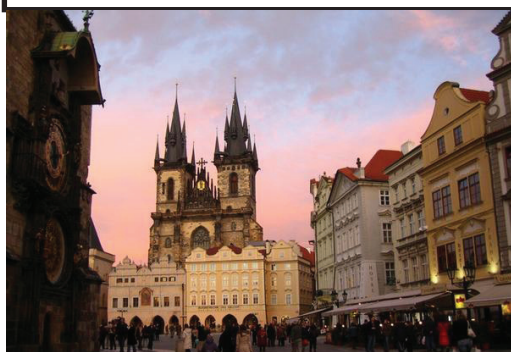
and is easily accessible making it a wonderful setting for the World Conference.

Anyone who is interested in gifted education and has a stake in this field is encouraged to attend. The spirit of sharing is a hallmark of this conference. It provides a powerful, scientific platform for gifted education, professional dialogue, peer networking, and strengthening services and practices. You can expect to meet with a diversity of colleagues from different parts of the world to exchange ideas and learn the latest developments in the field of gifted education. Attendees are the most important part of this conference and active participation is vital for all of us to fulfill our mission. For more information please check the conference registration website at **[www.worldconference2011.org](http://www.worldconference2011.org)**. Members of the WCGTC receive significantly reduced rates. To join the WCGTC please see **[www.world-gifted.org/join-us](http://www.world-gifted.org/join-us)**. We look forward to seeing you on August 8.

*Please Note: Unforeseen political circumstances in South Korea made it necessary for the WCGTC Executive Committee to move the World Conference to Prague, Czech Republic for 2011. Safety considerations for our participants were paramount and we apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused our membership and our South Korean hosts.*



# Things to See and Do



## in Prague (Praha)

Plan on adding an extra day or two to your conference visit and spend some time touring one of Europe's most historic and beautiful cities. Since 1992 Prague has been designated a UNESCO World

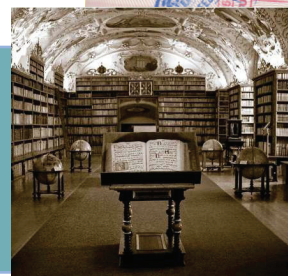
Heritage Site. The city is situated on both banks of the Vltava River (also known by its German name, the Moldau). The heart of Prague's historical center is Old Town (Staré Město) and the Old Town Square (Staroměstské náměstí). The square has been beautifully restored and a good place to start your Prague visit. The Old Town Hall (Staroměstská radnice) and the Astronomical Clock (Orloj) are definitely worth a look. Just a short walk away is the other main city area, Wenceslas Square (Václavské náměstí) the center of the New Town (Nové Město) area of Prague, a vibrant boulevard of restaurants and shops. Nearby is the Jewish Quarter (Josefov) where you can visit the Old-New Synagogue (Staronová synagoga), the oldest working synagogue in Central Europe. Then walk across the Charles Bridge (Karlův most) where during the day you can climb the towers on both sides or at night enjoy the magnificent view of the Prague Castle (Pražský hrad) all lit up. The Bridge connects to Prague's Little Quarter or Lesser Town (Malá Strana) across the Vltava River. If you have more time take a tram visit to the Prague Castle area where you will find not one single castle on the hill but a series of buildings. The Prague Castle is the most popular sight in the city, reflecting the city's "Bohemian Baroque" architecture. It's quite a climb but worth a tour. The seat of Czech rulers for 1,000 years, today it houses the office of the President. Saint Vitus Cathedral (Katedrála svatého Víta), a Gothic landmark of the city started in 926 that is the center of Prague's religious and political life, is in this giant castle. After exploring the castle area walk through the castle gardens or take the historic Nerudova Street (Nerudova ulice) down to Lesser Town Square (Malostranské náměstí), the heart of Lesser Town (Malá Strana). Also try and spend some time on Kampa Island just off of Charles Bridge. Art museums and galleries, opera and classical music concerts, river cruises, and top restaurants are all plentiful in Prague so take advantage of this unique conference venue and enjoy this "Golden City."

For more information on your upcoming visit see the official travel site of the Czech Republic at [www.czechtourism.com](http://www.czechtourism.com). The website is available in different languages by clicking on the top right hand corner. More information on Prague is available at [www.cityofprague.cz](http://www.cityofprague.cz). The site is available in English by clicking on the EN link on the top right.



### Helpful Websites for World Conference in Prague:

[www.worldconference2011.org](http://www.worldconference2011.org) - conference registration  
[www.world-gifted.org/join-us](http://www.world-gifted.org/join-us) - WCGTC membership information  
[www.czechtourism.com](http://www.czechtourism.com) - official travel site of Czech Republic  
[www.cityofprague.cz](http://www.cityofprague.cz) - local information about Prague  
[www.praguepost.com](http://www.praguepost.com) - English language Prague newspaper





## World Council Election Results

Two new members have been elected to the World Council Executive Committee by the WCGTC membership. We are pleased to announce that Dr. Ümit Davaslıgil from Turkey and Dr. Ken McCluskey from Canada will be joining the Executive Committee at the conclusion of the 2011 World Conference. We thank the other candidates for considering serving in this capacity. The election was held online during May and all members were invited to participate. The World Council Executive Committee has seven members, and each serves for a term of four years.

## Members Approve Revised Bylaws for World Council

Members of the WCGTC recently ratified the revised Bylaws for the World Council. In May, the Bylaws Committee submitted the updated Bylaws for final review with a comments period and subsequently members voted online to ratify the new document. The new Bylaws can be viewed online in the Members' Area at the World Council website at [www.world-gifted.org](http://www.world-gifted.org). The Bylaws provide the guidance and foundation for our democratic structure. Thank you for your input.

## 20th Biennial World Conference

Mark your calendars - August 5 - 9, 2013, the 20th Biennial World Conference of the WCGTC will be held in Auckland, New Zealand.

## Access *GTI* through New Venues

Our journal, *Gifted and Talented International (GTI)*, has been added to EBSCO Publishing's searchable database of academic publications. EBSCO is a leading publisher of premium content, which means *GTI* articles are now available to libraries, schools, academic institutions, medical institutions, and corporations. *GTI* is also indexed with the ERIC (Education Resources Information Center) database sponsored by the U.S. Department of Education which provides access to educational related journal and non-journal literature going back to 1966. *GTI* is also now listed in the *Cabell's Directories of Publishing Opportunities*. Cabell's Directories maintains current information for over 4,000 journals making it an easy point of reference to help professors, graduate students, and researchers publish their manuscripts in academic journals.

*GTI* is a peer-reviewed, international journal which covers the whole field of giftedness and creativity. It aims to provide a medium for communication between researchers and the practitioners and to foster collaborative research. *GTI* is published twice annually in paper form and electronically. A journal subscription provides you with a mailed-out paper copy. A WCGTC membership provides you with an electronic subscription, which includes the entire archive back to 1982. To join the World Council go to [www.world-gifted.org/join-us](http://www.world-gifted.org/join-us).

# Delegate Discourse



## AUSTRIA

### *Network of Gifted Education*

In several Austrian provinces the network of gifted education is currently being expanded. Having already introduced a coordinator for gifted education for each province in 1999, some provinces have now established coordinators for each district and some even for each school. The coordinators' tasks at the district and school levels range from organizing talent courses and initiating school development to counseling parents, teachers, and students on aspects of identification and talent development. Furthermore, they regularly interact with the provincial coordinator, thus establishing continuous talent development from one school to the other.

### *Centers for Talent Courses*

In two Austrian provinces special centers for talent courses, which are both located in picturesque castles of historic value, have been established. Pupils are able to attend these courses during the school year. Topics range from foreign languages (e.g., Czech, Spanish), creative writing, and rhetorics, to CAD, astrophysics, and math for girls. The Centers provide full board and accommodation.

Sincerely,  
Dr. Claudia Resch  
ÖZBF Österreichisches Zentrum  
für Begabtenförderung  
und Begabungsforschung  
Delegate for Austria



## JORDAN

At the beginning of the second semester of this scholastic year 2010/2011, I directed a workshop for the Primary Stage teachers. My workshop was "Assessment for Learning." The training concentrated on the following elements:

- Sharing the learning objectives and success criteria with the students
- Giving direct feedback to students to inform them how to improve their performance
- Giving students the chance to make use of the feedback given by the teacher, and providing the opportunity so that they can correct their mistakes and find appropriate solutions
- Self-Assessment should be carried out by comparing one's work with the success criteria
- The objective of assessment should be to improve learning and to increase motivation and self-confidence

- Assessment is a collaborative process that includes students, teachers and parents, and this way students are held responsible for their learning
- Assessment and learning are not two separate things; as effective assessment should result in improving learning

The forty teachers who participated in the workshop worked collaboratively; their interaction was so positive that they worked actively in groups and designed lesson plans in English, Math, and Science, taking into consideration all the elements that affect "Assessment for Learning." The closing session included presentations of the lesson plans which had a lot of creative ideas.

Kind regards,  
Janette Wakileh  
Head of Primary  
National & CIPP  
Jordanian International Schools  
Delegate for Jordan

Celebrate  
International  
Day of the Gifted  
August 10!

# Irish Advocates moving ahead in 2011 the year for Celebrating Irish Talent and Ingenuity



by **LESLIE S. GRAVES**

Occasional Lecturer, University College Dublin, Ireland  
Secretary, WCGTC

*It has been wonderful to watch, listen and see the rise of gifted advocacy efforts that seem to be sweeping various sectors of the Irish gifted community.* This last year I have seen many initiatives happen and signs that there is a genuine desire to move forward. Parents and educators both appear to be seeking greater awareness of gifted needs within government and educational circles. An example of this is our recent election of a new government, in which, through the lobbying and advocacy efforts from many quarters of the gifted community, for the very first time ever, a winning political party has the word 'gifted' in its manifesto, promising to look at what supports are in place for these children and the possibility of enlisting third level institutions in aid of provision.

Our economy has been in desperate shape, the cuts have been harsh, grants removed, and college fees hiked up. As in other parts of the world, calls for fostering innovation/creativity, knowledge/smart economies are the governmental buzz words. Education is in the limelight, and being paid attention to as the country looks at ways to bolster its skill base and keep its best and brightest minds from emigrating. STEM subjects are being looked at closely and new and innovative methods of teaching and introducing curriculum are being sought. In a funny way, these types of downturns can bring opportunities for change. Over the last year in Ireland many events have taken place.

In the spring of 2010, the Centre for Talented Youth in Ireland hosting their yearly conference, included very encouraging words from the Centre's director, Dr. Colm O'Reilly and presentations from several Irish presenters, including Dr. Sarah McElwee from Oxford University, and Margaret Keane from **Giftedkids.ie**, who, along with the **Giftedkids.ie** team, manage a wonderful website, and also run a series of free webinars on the site to raise awareness of gifted issues. At the yearly Irish Association of Teachers

in Special Education, I gave a lecture on Supporting Exceptionally Able Students - this consisted of an overview of a number of countries' best practices, legislation in regards to Able Students in Ireland and a demonstration of simple, inexpensive, but effective activities for differentiating and meeting the needs of gifted learners.

At the Irish Teaching and Learning Festival (ITL) in Dublin in the fall there were three presentations on gifted. One was on the new Mission V Project from Margaret Keane and James Colbert of **Giftedkids.ie** and **Daynuv.com** respectfully - a 3D immersive Virtual world project for teaching exceptionally able students in school. The second was from Dr. Catherine Riordan and Karen McCarthy, global ambassadors for the global gifted twitter group **#gtchat**, founded by Deborah Mersino of Ingeniosus in the USA. Their presentation focused on the Twitter platform and how it is being used to bring many members of the gifted global community together, as well as an excellent presentation on how to navigate and use the platform.

They are well experienced advocates and parents, and were due to give another presentation at the 2011 CTYI conference this spring, and are involved in a number of advocacy efforts. More information can be found in the links below. The third presentation was given by myself on Supporting Exceptionally Able Children in Challenging Times - addressing legislation and the need for collaborative efforts between teachers and community to find economically viable methods of providing for gifted learners.

The explosion of social networking connections and platforms such as Facebook and Twitter, have meant that we have seen some new advocates coming forth, building bridges amongst the teaching community. Several new websites and a new Irish Twitter chat **#gtie** are now being developed by Peter Lydon, also from Dublin. More information on Mr. Lydon and his initiatives can be accessed from the links below. He is

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the Irish contact for the European Talent Day initiative and also the National Gifted Awareness Day.

With any luck, 2011 will be an exciting journey, with many, many new, beneficial, powerfully transforming events along the way.

It does seem that some extraordinary things are happening here, and almost too quickly to report all of them. Apart from the previously mentioned inclusion of the gifted in the new government's manifesto, the most recent development, being that the Mission V Project has just gained recognition from our Department of Education through the support of our National Council for Technology in Education (NCTE), could mean some very good things for the gifted community.

The 2011 CTYI conference took place in March. Being the principal provider for out of school programs for gifted students around the country, its conference, without a doubt was the biggest magnet for gifted families. This year there were featured presentations by **Giftedkids.ie** and **dazzledandfrazzled.com**, and interesting speakers such as Dr. Tracy Cross from the USA, and Sarah McElwee, currently with Oxford University. The conference was made possible through Dr. Colm O'Rielly, the director of the centre and his hard working team.

In April, The School of Education and Life Long Learning at UCD, had a visit from Dr. Megan Foley-Nicpon of the National Institute for Exceptional Ability (NITE) from the Belin-Blank International Center for Gifted Education and Talent Development in Iowa. Dr. Nicpon gave a weekend workshop for graduate students in assessment. Also in April, the nation celebrated its first National Gifted Education Awareness Day.

The IASTE conference was in June and we are hoping that, as Prague may not be so far from Dublin, that maybe we might see a fair few Irish Advocates attending the WCGTC Conference in August.

On me...

On a personal note, what have I been up too? Well, when health permits, I have continued to work on a project with the International Templeton Fellows out of the Belin-Blank Center, as well as collaborating on the B-B Center's gifted teachers listserve, supplying the list with quantities of useful educational links. These I have collected in a series of live binders which are accessible from a small blog/website set up with this in mind. It also contains a number of other informative pages. I have continued to input lectures on Exceptionally (gifted) Able students at UCD, and present when I am able at National and occasionally International Venues, such as a talk scheduled for May of this year at the Bavarian Center for Gifted Children. I have continued to assist parents, teachers and schools with resources, information and advice, along with continuing to work hard to keep international and national lines of communication open.

I would like to encourage other members of the WCGTC to share what is happening in your countries as it is through sharing information that we can all get to know and understand each other better. So... what's happening in your neck of the globe? And more importantly what have YOU been up to recently in regards to supporting gifted kids in your country and around the world?

We hope as momentum gathers, advocacy for our many talented students may move forward into a new era of understanding and support.

### **SOME IRISH GIFTED EDUCATION WEBSITES OF INTEREST**

**Giftedkids.ie** - for parents & teachers of gifted children in Ireland

**www.giftedkids.ie/sponsorship.html** - Mission V (Use of 3D Immersive Technology for the Support of Gifted Learners)

**www.dcu.ie/ctyi/** - The Centre for Talented Youth Ireland

**www.dcu.ie/ctyi/conferences.shtml** - The Centre for Talented Youth Ireland conference page

**gtnetwork.ie/** - Gifted and Talented Network Ireland

**giftedandtalented.ie/** - Gifted and Talented Ireland

**innreach.wordpress.com/** - Gifted, Talented, & Creative Support/Edu Page

**dazzledandfrazzled.com/** - Irish Gifted Education Blog

Irish twitter chat session **#gtie** on Sunday evenings (link to giftedkids webinars)

# International opportunities

## Does your country offer IB?



The International Baccalaureate (IB) is a non-profit organization that offers three programs (primary years, middle years, and diploma) for students age 3-19 around the world. The IB aims to develop inquiring, knowledgeable, and caring young people who help to create a better and more peaceful world through intercultural understanding and respect. To this end, the IB works with schools, governments, and international organizations to develop challenging programs of international education and rigorous assessment. These programs encourage students across the world to become active, compassionate, and lifelong learners who understand that other people, with their differences, can also be right. The IB works with 3,267 schools in 141 countries to offer the three IB programs to approximately 946,000 students. The Diploma program offers 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade students an opportunity to participate in internationally recognized and rigorous curriculum. To earn the IB Diploma, students complete and test in six IB subjects; write an extended essay of independent research guided by a faculty mentor; complete 150 hours of creative, action, and service activities (CAS); and participate in a critical thinking course called Theory of Knowledge. This advanced, comprehensive program of study offers an integrated approach to learning across the disciplines with an emphasis on meeting the challenges of living and working in a global, technological society. To find out more visit [www.ibo.org/](http://www.ibo.org/).

*for students*

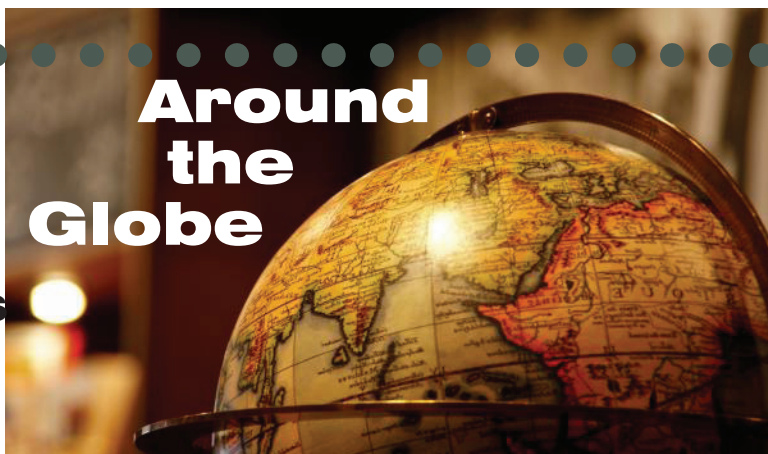


## Model United Nations Opportunities for Students Available Worldwide

Model United Nations is an authentic academic simulation of the United Nations that aims to educate participants about current events, topics in international relations, diplomacy, and the United Nations agenda. Participants role play as diplomats representing a nation or non-governmental organization (NGO) in a simulated session of a committee of the United Nations such as the Security Council or General Assembly. Participants research a country, take on roles as diplomats, investigate international issues, debate, deliberate, consult, and then develop solutions to world problems. Model United Nations groups are usually organized as a club, conference, or class. A conference is a school-wide, local, regional or international gathering of Model United Nations students who come together over a period between one and five days. During a conference, participants must employ a variety of communication and critical thinking skills in order to represent the policies of their country. These skills include public speaking, group communication, research, policy analysis, active listening, negotiating, conflict resolution, note taking, and technical writing. Model United Nations participants are elementary, secondary, undergraduate, graduate and doctoral students. Even university alumni and professionals have taken part. Participants come from public and private schools and universities and they live in city, suburban, and rural areas. Model United Nations is as old as the United Nations itself and conferences are now held all over the world. The popularity of Model U.N. continues to grow, and today more than 400,000 middle school, high school and college and university students worldwide participate every year. There are about 400 Model U.N. conferences held annually worldwide. For more information about getting your country involved see Model UN at [cyberschoolbus.un.org](http://cyberschoolbus.un.org) or Youth at [wfuna.org](http://wfuna.org).

# Upcoming Conferences & Events

## Around the Globe



### ■ August 1-3, 2011

#### *Giftedness in East Asia*

Explorations in the Aciotope Model of Giftedness, Symposium and Workshop  
Hong Kong - [www.ied.edu.hk/giftedea/](http://www.ied.edu.hk/giftedea/)

### ■ August 8-12, 2011

#### *WCGTC (World Council for Gifted and Talented Children)*

19th Biennial World Conference for Gifted and Talented Children

*Making a World of Difference for Gifted Children*

Prague, Czech Republic - [www.worldconference2011.org/](http://www.worldconference2011.org/)

### ■ August 27, 2011, 9-10 p.m. (CEST) (3-4 p.m. US-EDT)

#### *Global Virtual Meeting for Gifted Education in Second Life*

Guest speaker, Thomas Leigh Armstrong, USA (online, free!)

[www.begabungszentrum-bayern.de/global-virtual-meeting-for-gifted-education-in-secondlife/](http://www.begabungszentrum-bayern.de/global-virtual-meeting-for-gifted-education-in-secondlife/)

### ■ September 14-18, 2011

#### *7th International Conference on Psychological-Pedagogical Problems of Giftedness: Theory & Practice, East-Siberian State Academy of Education (ESSAE)*

Irkutsk, Russia

Contact Irina Shishkina: phone: (007)3952243770, email: [kafedra\\_psihod@mail.ru](mailto:kafedra_psihod@mail.ru)

### ■ September 24, 2011, 9-10 p.m. (CEST) (3-4 p.m. US-EDT)

#### *Global Virtual Meeting for Gifted Education in Second Life*

Guest speaker, Allie Golan, USA (online, free!)

[www.begabungszentrum-bayern.de/global-virtual-meeting-for-gifted-education-in-secondlife/](http://www.begabungszentrum-bayern.de/global-virtual-meeting-for-gifted-education-in-secondlife/)

### ■ October 9 - 14, 2011

*6th Annual International Creativity Conference in South Africa for Educators* (October 9 - 11)

*17th Annual International Creativity Conference in South Africa* (October 11 - 14)

*Discovering the Heart and Mind of Creativity*

Bela-Bela, South Africa - [www.sacreativity.co.za/?conferences=2011-educators-conference](http://www.sacreativity.co.za/?conferences=2011-educators-conference)

### ■ November 3-6, 2011

#### *NAGC (National Association for Gifted Children) 58<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention*

*Advancing Potential and All that Jazz*

New Orleans, Louisiana, USA - [www.nagc.org](http://www.nagc.org)

### ■ November 26-30, 2011

#### *IRATDE (International Research Association for Talent Development & Excellence)*

2nd International Conference for Talent and Development

Jubail, Saudi Arabia - [www.ictde2011.com/ictde/](http://www.ictde2011.com/ictde/)





## World Council Publications

### **World Gifted**

*World Gifted* newsletter is the bulletin of the World Council. It contains the latest news and information concerning the organization, its membership, and the international gifted education community. It is published three times a year.

We invite all members to contribute and report on anything that would be of interest to other members, such as events and initiatives, news about regional organizations, profiles of individual members, or announcements.

Submissions should include the name of the author, title, and country of residence. Send contributions for consideration to: Tracy Harkins, Editor, at [headquarters@world-gifted.org](mailto:headquarters@world-gifted.org). Please give us enough lead time if the submission concerns an upcoming event.

### **Gifted and Talented International**

*Gifted and Talented International (GTI)* is the official journal of the World Council. *GTI* is refereed by an editorial review board of leading international educators of the gifted. It is published twice a year.

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. Articles for the journal are welcome and may be submitted at any time.

Prospective authors are requested to submit inquiries and manuscripts to:

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