The World Council has unveiled its new website and database at www.world-gifted.org. The new website is a new design and allows for more sharing among the membership through its “Connect with Colleagues” section. While the previous website had been a great improvement in moving the organization forward, the new website incorporates ideas submitted by members at the 2011 World Conference in Prague. Members had wanted a more user-friendly platform and the ability to connect with each other through a central forum. The new website was designed by Hitcents of Bowling Green, KY where the World Council headquarters is located. World Council Executive Administrator Tracy Harkins worked with Hitcents for several months to refine the ideas brought forward by the World Council Executive Committee and World Council membership to make the website a better experience for members and visitors interested in learning more about global gifted education initiatives. “We hope the new WCGTC website enables more communication among members between world conferences and serves as a way to make us a year-round worldwide organization,” said Julia Roberts, Executive Committee member and Treasurer of the WCGTC. “When we began hosting the WCGTC at Western Kentucky University in 2011, our goal was to create a more transparent and networked organization and the new website helps us accomplish that objective,” Dr. Roberts added. We encourage members to visit the new website and send any comments or suggestions to headquarters@world-gifted.org. The WCGTC also wants to thank the students of Connie Phelps at Emporia State University who provided very helpful suggestions after evaluating our former website as part of a class. We apologize to any members who may have experienced technical difficulties while the WCGTC website was being updated and transferred to its new home. We hope you will find it was worth the wait!
During the last month, I was invited by Todd Lubart (Université Paris Descartes) to meet with a number of European scholars. This meeting aimed at discussing the role of creativity in developing business, in addition to the economics of education. This meeting motivated us to talk about the importance of gifted education, and to start working on a special issue of Gifted and Talented International (GTI) concerned with the Economics of Gifted Education.

Based on the outcomes of this discussion, the Editor-in-Chief has invited one of the top leaders in the field of economics of education to write the theoretical framework that will be the target paper. Consequently, a number of scholars will be invited to write their critiques and response articles.

The meeting with Todd Lubart and his colleagues emphasized a number of points, including: The importance of investment in education in general and gifted education in particular; the economics of education has grown rapidly to cover all areas with linkages to education; and the field of the economics of education concerned itself with the economic issues relating to education (e.g., investment in human [or cultural] capital; the relationship between schooling and labor market outcomes; the impact of technological advances on education, and consequently on the required competencies for future jobs.)

Similarly, it is our right to shed some light on the economics of gifted education. Gifted education becomes a must for all nations. There is a rationale behind this argument. In other words, why do we have to have gifted education and excellence in education? Based on our knowledge and expertise, we strongly believe that we should invest in the education of gifted, creative, and talented children. Such investment requires well developed challenging programs that concentrate on developing and applying high-level skills; emphasize problem identification and creative problem solving; emphasize creativity, productive thinking skills and metacognition; provide special provisions for quick mastery of the basic skills through compaction of the curriculum; employ effective decision-making and management strategies; explore career options; and develop self-confidence.

But, in order to achieve our ultimate goals, we are in need of highly qualified and competent teachers who are willing to serve gifted, creative and talented students. In other words, the teachers of these students need: First, knowledge and appreciation of the nature of high levels of intellectual abilities; Second, knowledge and understanding of their characteristics, needs, and potential social and emotional problems; Third, knowledge of and access to advanced knowledge structures and useful conventional and computerized resources (e.g., Renzulli Learning System), taking into account that we have to invest more in educational technology to facilitate such programmes. In the “Digital World” we are moving towards mobile teaching and Virtual Learning Environments. This world adds another layer of complexity. The current advances enable data to follow us and to be encrypted, minimized, sent wirelessly, shared and copied effortlessly. Investment in educational technology will enable us to improve the quality of education; extend gifted programs; bridge between different cultures and civilizations; foster creative production; and more; Fourth, competencies (as the combination of knowledge, skills and practical expertise) to develop special provisions to meet the special needs of the gifted, creative and talented students; and Fifth, competencies to create a
challenging and safe learning environment to explore.

I strongly believe in the importance of gifted education, and we are certainly part of a potential support system for general education, but we also should have a degree of separation that helps develop students who will be at the top rank of their professions and fields of interests.

Finally, I would like to inform you that the editorial board of Gifted and Talented International, in coordination and collaboration with Roland S. Persson (the author of the target paper and the concluding article), has completed a special issue of GTI concerned with “Cultural variation and dominance in a globalized knowledge-economy: Towards a culture-sensitive research paradigm in the science of giftedness.” This issue will be published in June 2012.

As for the activities, achievements, projects, and future plans of the WCGTC, this newsletter will shed light on them, and the website will keep you well informed. A number of activities, projects and initiatives are under development and will be announced in the near future.
AUSTRALIA

In February and April 2012, Monash University had two Visiting Scholars in gifted education, Professor June Maker (University of Arizona) and Professor Barbara Kerr (University of Kansas) who worked with Dr. Leonie Kronborg. They contributed to professional learning to teachers at the Nossal High school, the selective high school on Monash University, Berwick Campus and to the Master’s of Education (gifted education) course on the Clayton Campus.

Professor Maker also worked with Presbyterian Ladies College teachers, to deliver professional learning on Problem Based Learning. A team of four Year 11 PLC students again won the Australian Computational Linguistics Olympiad (OzCLO) Australian Final and will represent Australia at the International Linguistics Olympiad in Slovenia in August. The Victorian Parliamentary Inquiry in Gifted Education has had over 100 submissions into the provision of Gifted Education and is due to report in late June, while the Victorian Association for Gifted and Talented Children (VAGTC) has run a Parent Forum and a teacher seminar on Differentiating the Curriculum for Gifted Learning and will disburse scholarships for two gifted students, urban and rural, donated by Yvonne Perret. The AAEGT Biennial Conference will be held in Adelaide 11-15 July, 2012.

Submitted by Susan Knopfelmacher, Delegate for Australia

BRAZIL

The 5th Meeting of the Brazilian Council for Giftedness will be held at the State University of Rio de Janeiro, in Rio de Janeiro, the “Wonderful City,” as Brazilians call it, July 25-27, 2012. The theme of the meeting is “Culture, Science and Technology: Ability and Talent Innovation.” The purpose of the meeting is to discuss Brazil’s needs for innovation in order to fulfill the demands that economic and social progress require. Brazil is going through times of innovation in culture, science, and technology and the development of multiple abilities and talents is essential. In this context, schools become places of social responsibility, and educational practices need to be revised and extended. The meeting program includes keynote addresses by scholars in the field of gifted education, round-tables, symposia, oral communications, and posters on topics such as creativity and innovation, families of gifted children, education of gifted students in the context of inclusive education, acceleration, twice-exceptional students, and enrichment activities. One of the invited keynote speakers is Dr. Nicholas Colangelo from the Belin & Blank International Center for Gifted Education and Talent Development at the University of Iowa. The 1st Meeting of Gifted Children and Youth of Rio de Janeiro will also be held at the same time and location. For information regarding both meetings, please visit the website, www.uff.br/conbrasd/ (in Portuguese) or contact the program committee at comissaocientificavencontro@gmail.com.

Submitted by Denise Fleith, Delegate for Brazil

GREECE

As many realize, Greece is suffering from political and financial austerity and as a result initiatives concerning education in general (not only the gifted domain) are becoming more and more limited. A legislative change that refers to very able students is not yet activated due to the economic issues and as one can conclude priority is given to mainstream education. In that context it is worth mentioning what DIXATAPE (www.gifted.gr) is trying to do in the direction of cultivating children’s talents through in-service training among other initiatives. The website of the Greek Society for the Advancement of Creative Education/Gifted/Talented Children and Adolescents is for psychologists, educators, teachers of each specialty and level, scientists involved in education and mental health, as well as parents.

Submitted by Sofia Theodoridou, Ph.D., Delegate for Greece
NEW ZEALAND

The last year has been an interesting one for gifted education in New Zealand, with a range of exciting developments. GiftEDnz, a new organisation for professionals working in the field of gifted education, has had a successful year, with the establishment of two writing groups (one on giftedness in the early years, and the other on giftedness from a Maori perspective.) Their inaugural conference was held in March 2012, when Associate Professor Jill Bevan-Brown was the first recipient of Te Manu Kotuku, the giftEDnz award for significant contributions to gifted education in New Zealand.

In July 2011 the first conference for gifted senior high school students was held at Massey University in Albany, Auckland. Students elected to attend workshops in diverse areas ranging from geology, philosophy, psychology, sports science, and marketing through to criminal law, agricultural research, creative writing, writing for film and television, and counselling. Over 230 gifted students attended the event which was organised by SAGE (Secondary Auckland Gifted Educators.)

Cognition Education has had the major government contract for gifted education over 2010 and 2011. They had a three pronged approach, focusing on national level dissemination of information through an innovative web development which included a mailing list and webinars; regional work through the establishment of regional strategy groups which met on a regular basis; and local work which involved working with schools in areas of high need.

In 2011 the Ministry of Education convened a three-day retreat for members of the Ministry of Education’s Policy Advisory Group on Gifted Education. A policy statement, with accompanying principles and recommendations on gifted education was produced and then refined, following widespread consultation with the gifted community. This document provided a direction for gifted education in New Zealand over the coming 3 – 5 years.

The gifted and talented handbook for schools has had a major refresh, and will be launched shortly as an online document. In addition, four of my colleagues have produced books on gifted education in the last year – a bit of a record for New Zealand.

Finally, but very importantly, New Zealand will be hosting the 20th World Conference on Gifted and Talented Children in Auckland in 2013. The conference will explore “emotional, social, spiritual, cultural and ethical development in gifted young human beings, from early childhood through to late adolescence.” Join us there!

Submitted by Dr. Kate Niederer, Delegate for New Zealand

SCOTLAND

Scottish schools are currently implementing Scotland’s new curriculum framework Curriculum for Excellence (CfE). CfE claims to be a coherent, flexible and enriched curriculum for learners from 3 to 18. The curriculum aims to help every learner develop knowledge, skills, and attributes for learning, life and work, which are encapsulated in four capacities:

The Scottish Network for Able Pupils (SNAP) has been working with Associate Tutors from across Scotland as they consider what this framework means for children with high ability. A series of Continuing Professional Development (CPD) days for tutors and staff in schools also ran in February, March, and May 2012 exploring how to develop activities in line with the experiences and outcomes outlined in the framework.

SNAP has also completed a research project - ‘Incorporating challenge and identifying ability in nursery settings’. We worked in eight Nursery Schools in four education authorities in Scotland. This work was funded
The U.S.A.’s National Association for Gifted Children (NAGC) hosted its annual (58th) conference in New Orleans, Louisiana, November 3-6, 2011. Over 2,000 participants attended sessions ranging from the inclusion of technology to common core standards and the gifted learner. The 59th Annual Convention will be hosted November 15-18, 2012, in Denver, Colorado and will carry the theme of “Reaching Beyond the Summit: Educating with Altitude.”

NAGC has a strong presence in political advocacy and academic “best practices” for gifted students and the professional development of educators working with and for gifted students in the United States. Recently, NAGC completed the Pre-K-Grade 12 Gifted Programming Standards. The standards can be found on the NAGC website at www.nagc.org.

Virtually every state in the U.S. has an NGAC affiliate organization dedicated to gifted students. The associations act as advocates to local, state and national level government in addressing the policies that affect gifted learners. They too are heavily involved in offering professional development to teachers and administrators in learning more about gifted students. Links to individual state affiliates can also be found on the NAGC website.

Another U.S. organization working for the needs of gifted students is The Association for the Gifted (TAG) Network of the Council for Exceptional Children (CEC). TAG hosted its annual symposium on April 11, 2012 in Denver, Colorado as a part of the Annual CEC Convention. The focus of the symposium was Practical Strategies that Address the NAGC Gifted Programming Standards. More information about TAG can be found at the cectag.org.

Submitted by Richard Cash, Ed.D., Kimberley Chandler, Ph.D., Gillian Eriksson, Ph.D., Delegates for the USA and WC Executive Committee Member Julia Link Roberts, Ed.D.
World Conference Prague Proceedings Update

The deadline for submitting presentations from the World Conference in Prague has been extended to the end of June 2012. Papers are needed to put together the proceedings from the Conference. There were more than 330 sessions and talks at the World Conference. If you participated in one of those and would like to submit your presentation for consideration, please email it to: taisir@icieworld.net. The proceedings are expected to be published in e-book form within a few months.

International Summer Student Course in Spain

XXII INTERNATIONAL SUMMER COURSE IN THE “HUERTA DEL REY” CENTER VALLADOLID, SPAIN, July 2-13, 2012 - The course is aimed at children and youngsters, born between 1994 and 2006. Children and youngsters must have been tested as gifted students (it is necessary to include a photocopy of the psychological report). For more information please see: www.centrohuertadelrey.com/es/eventos/xxii-international-summer-course-in-the-huerta-del-rey-center.html.

World Council Headquarters News

WCGTC Member Kim Ngoc Minh from Vietnam visited the World Council Headquarters in Bowling Green, Kentucky February 28-29, 2012 on his way to the California Association for the Gifted (CAG) 50th Annual Conference in Palm Springs, California. Minh is from Vietnam but has done postgraduate work in gifted education at the University of New South Wales in Australia. Minh said of his visit, “The time at WKU and at your Center with your kind hospitality was an unforgettable experience. I learned a lot from you and your educational models that I hope to apply in Vietnam.” We encourage all WCGTC members to visit the headquarters whenever their travels take them to the United States.

Gatton Academy Ranked # 1

The Carol Martin Gatton Academy of Mathematics and Science in Kentucky at Western Kentucky University (WKU) has been recognized by Newsweek magazine as the nation’s top public high school. America’s Best High Schools 2012 was released in Newsweek’s May 20 online edition and May 28 print edition and recognized 1,000 schools in the U.S. Newsweek’s methodology for their rankings highlighted schools that focus on providing solutions to the challenges of 21st century education and preparing students for both college and life. World Council Executive Committee member Dr. Julia Roberts is Executive Director of the Gatton Academy. She said, “A promising future for our country is closely tied to the development of talent in science, mathematics, languages arts, the social sciences, and the arts. The purpose of the Gatton Academy is to extend learning opportunities for gifted students who live in all parts of Kentucky.” For more information please see www.wku.edu/gatton.
The Official 2012 London Olympics educational website is available for student learning. The build-up to the 2012 London Olympics provides an excellent opportunity to engage students all around the world in learning about this history of sport and the way athletics can help foster international understanding. “Get Set” is the official London 2012 education programme established to capture the imagination of young people worldwide. It offers a huge variety of opportunities, with teaching resources targeted at 3-19 year olds. There is a whole range of flexible, interactive learning resources designed to help you start your students thinking about the Olympic and Paralympic Values - with games, factsheets, films, news articles, and much more.

For more information visit the London 2012 Get Set Education website at: getset.london2012.com/en/home.
Executive Committee member Leslie S. Graves kindly donated a print of her drawing “The Angsty Horse” for the scholarship auction at the World Conference in Prague. EC member Dorothy Sisk won the drawing which now hangs in her office in Texas. Leslie then donated the artist’s proof to the World Council headquarters where it now greets people who visit the World Council offices. We asked Leslie to talk about how she came to draw “The Angsty Horse” and its significance for gifted children.

“The Angsty Horse began its life as an idea/thought. A favourite quote that seemed to fit many of the gifted life experiences of our family, and a very small and old image on a Cuban postage stamp. A friend in New Zealand, Mary St. George, decided to try and start a communal photo/image quote project, in honour of the first Celebration of the International Day of the Gifted. The images in the archive would be available for use by anyone who may want/need them for a presentation or other activity/event to further awareness of giftedness. Mary, knowing I had been working to get this Day to become a reality, and also that I was a closet Equine artist, asked if I would contribute an image. So... from the tiny image on the postage stamp my pencil teased out a similar, but quite unique piece which carried all the emotion of what it looks/feels like to have the very essence of your being held in check, when what you really needed was to move forward. A reminder of what we don’t want to see. It called itself ‘The Angsty Horse’. As it was drawn for the purpose of the project, and in honour of the WCGTC’s inaugural Celebration of the International Day of the Gifted, I first offered this, the Artist’s Proof, for sale for 750 Dollars, and the 1st of only 25 prints, up for silent auction at the 19th WCGTC Conference in Prague in hopes that the proceeds would go to the WCGTC Scholarship Fund. The print was auctioned, (and now hangs in Dr. Dorothy Sisk’s Office at Lamar University in Texas.) This, the Artist’s Proof, has now been donated to the New WCGTC’s Headquarters, as it felt like the most appropriate home for it. After all, what better home for a horse than Kentucky! It will hopefully be a reminder of the spirit of sharing we all experienced during the conference and also remind us that often, holding back, may be the more painful and damaging option, than allowing ourselves and others to be brave and take a leap... into the amazing beyond... and a new beginning.

Artist, Leslie S. Graves, Dalkey, Co., Dublin, Ireland- International Coordinator and Executive Member World Council for Gifted and Talented Children, September 2011.

(Note: Additional limited edition prints may be purchased through the WCGTC; or directly from the artist for $150. A portion of the proceeds goes directly to the WCGTC scholarship fund. Email headquarters@world-gifted.org for more details.)
International opportunities

Torrance Legacy Creative Writing Awards

Students around the world are invited to submit their finest creative work to help celebrate the great legacy of educator and creativity pioneer Dr. E. Paul Torrance, author of more than 2,000 tests, articles, and books. Poetry and short story submissions may focus on one of the following creative themes: Let Humor Flow; Keep Open to the Snow; Digging Deeper; Overcoming Obstacles; Lessons from Nature; and Standing Alone. Students are encouraged to freely interpret these themes. Please note that there is a 1250 word limit for stories. There is no prescribed word limit for poems. Only one story and/or one poem will be accepted from each student. Students in grades 2 through 12 are eligible. Please note, participants need not be enrolled in gifted programs. All submissions must be postmarked by August 15, 2012. The awards are sponsored by The National Association for Gifted Children (NAGC), The National Association for Gifted Children Creativity Network, the Torrance Center for Creativity and Talent Development, the Future Problem Solving Program International (FPSPI), Ignite Creative Learning Studio, Knox College, The Center for Gifted, a Northern Illinois University partner, and Scholastic Testing. For rules, submission guidelines and tips please visit www.ststesting.com/torrance.

Visual Arts Torrance Legacy Awards

Pick up your paintbrush, mallet, or camera and showcase your creativity! Students in grades 2 through 12 are invited to submit photographs of original paintings, prints, sculptures, or photographs. Winning entries will be published in the Torrance Legacy Visual Arts Awards Collection. Students are invited to submit their finest creative work to help celebrate the great legacy of educator and creativity pioneer Dr. E. Paul Torrance, author of more than 2,000 tests, articles and books. Students may submit photographs of any 2D or 3D visual art, including without limitation painting, collage, printmaking, photography, sculpture, ceramics, or other related work. Submissions may focus on one of the following creative themes: Let Humor Flow, Keep Open to the Snow, Digging Deeper, Lessons from Nature, Overcoming Obstacles, and Standing Alone. Students are encouraged to freely interpret these themes. Please note that you must submit a photographic representation of your work of art. Students may apply to both the creative writing and visual arts competitions. Each student may submit only one submission for the category of 2D or 3D art or both. Students in grades 2 through 12 are eligible. Please note, participants need not be enrolled in gifted programs. Students will compete in one of four divisions: 2nd & 3rd grades; 4th & 5th grades; 6th, 7th & 8th grades; or 9th through 12th grades. All submissions must be postmarked by August 13, 2012. The awards are sponsored by The National Association for Gifted Children (NAGC); The National Association for Gifted Children Arts Network; The National Association for Gifted Children Creativity Network; The Torrance Center for Creativity and Talent Development; the Future Problem Solving Program International (FPSPI), Ignite Creative Learning Studio; Knox College, The Center for Gifted, a Northern Illinois University partner; and Scholastic Testing Service, Inc. (STS). For rules, submission guidelines and tips go to: www.knox.edu/torrance-legacy-awards.html
Upcoming Conferences & Events

- **July 14-18, 2012**
  The 12th Asia-Pacific Conference on Giftedness
  Nurturing Talent, Growing Potential
  Dubai, United Arab Emirates - www.giftedness2012.com

- **July 25-27, 2012**
  Brazilian Council for Giftedness & 1st Meeting of Gifted Children and Youth of Rio de Janeiro
  Culture, Science, and Technology: Ability and Talent - Rio de Janeiro, Brazil - www.uff.br/conbrasd/

- **September 12-15, 2012**
  13th International European Council for High Ability Conference
  Giftedness Across the Lifespan - Münster, Germany - www.echa2012.info

- **October 18-19, 2012**
  IX Ibero-American Congress on Giftedness - Buenos Aires, Argentina - www.ficomundyt.com

- **November 15-18, 2012**
  National Association for Gifted Children 59th Annual Convention
  Reaching Beyond the Summit - Denver, Colorado - nagc.org

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**Seeking participants...**
Adults on the autism spectrum (with a diagnosis) & people with knowledge of individuals on the autism spectrum (any age with a diagnosis) who can help us learn about high abilities and achievements.

Adults with ASD  Parents  Teachers  Psychologists  Mentors  Coaches

This research has obtained ethics clearance from the Monash University Ethics Committee CF11/3664 - 2011001925

To find out more...
Follow link to the online questionnaire & full study details: http://tinyurl.com/monasheducation
Or contact the researcher: Susan.Wade@monash.edu
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. Please give us enough lead time if the submission concerns an upcoming event.

(Newsletter graphic design by Gail Hiles.)

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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