



WorldGifted

newsletter of The World Council for Gifted and Talented Children

www.world-gifted.org

Introducing Odense, Denmark, Site of the 2015 World Conference



Odense (which translates as the Norse god Odin's shrine) is a picturesque yet lively European city that offers a thriving restaurant and café culture, numerous galleries and museums, an impressive cathedral, and a colorful Flower Festival in mid-August (occurring during your visit!) In addition, for those who are fairy tale fans, you will be delighted by Odense's many Hans Christian Anderson related attractions and whimsical street corner sculptures of trolls and monster footed benches.

Despite having no harbour, Odense was Denmark's largest provincial town by the middle of the 18th century. In 1800, it was finally linked to the sea by a large canal. The city went from strength to strength, becoming an important textile centre. Odense is now a transportation hub for southern Denmark's Funen region and easily accessible by train from the Copenhagen airport.

The World Conference venue will be the Radisson Blu situated in the historic part of Odense where you will enjoy meandering the cobblestone streets and viewing the tiny well preserved houses and tidy gardens. From the Radisson Blu, you can walk to the downtown area where you will find classic European shopping, restaurants, and museums. Odense is very pedestrian friendly, though

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A letter from

Leslie S. Graves
President, WCGTC
Chair, World Conference 2015



It seems like the last conference in Kentucky has barely been and gone, however plans and preparations for the next one in Denmark are already moving along at a furious rate. I do believe that our members will find that our next meeting in 2015 will be filled with delightful and useful discourse as well as many good experiences.

As incoming WCGTC president, I feel that my first duty is to reiterate my thanks to those Executive Committee members who stepped down during our last conference and who gave so much to the organisation during their terms. Secondly, I will share some thoughts on *The International Year of Giftedness and Creativity*. I will end with some thoughts on the world conference and the organisation moving forward.

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REVISITING THE HISTORY OF THE WORLD COUNCIL

A Retrospective Glance at the WCGTC - An Expanded History

Longtime WCGTC Member and supporter Dorothy Sisk, along with members Bruce Shore, Annette Heinbokel, and Klaus Urban, recently offered to update and revise the WCGTC history. For those of you who are newer members we thought you might enjoy a look back at those who helped establish and grow the organization and ultimately secure its long-term future. This revised history will be posted on the WCGTC website along with an Appendix including former delegates, executive board members, and presidents. Thank you to Dorothy, Bruce, Annette, and Klaus for giving of your time to this important record.

• THE INITIATIVE

Henry Collis, the Director of the National Association of Gifted Children (United Kingdom) convened the first International Conference for Gifted and Talented Children in London, England, in 1975. It was held in the Royal College of Surgeons in Lincoln's Inn. Mr. Collis, former Headmaster of St. Paul's School, received support from Her Majesty's government through the Department of Education and Science and from Jon Burrows, Chief Inspector of Schools. He was also supported by Dr. Harold C. Lyon, Director of the Office of Gifted and Talented from the United States of America. More than 500 people from over 50 countries attended the conference. At the closing session of the conference, Dr. Lyon proposed that the participants join in an international initiative to form an organization to advocate for the gifted children of the world. In response to this proposal, 150 of the participating educators became members of the proposed organization.

• THE INCORPORATION

The World Council for Gifted and Talented Children was officially incorporated and registered in the state of Delaware as a non-profit organization on March 30, 1976. The officers and founding members listed on the incorporation documents included representatives from three nations: from Israel, President Dan Bitan; from the United Kingdom, Vice-President Henry Collis; and from the United States of America, Executive Vice-President Alexis DuPont De Bie; Joint Secretaries were Dorothy Sisk and Elizabeth Neuman, and Treasurer Robert Swain, also from the United States.

• THE SECOND WORLD CONFERENCE OF WCGTC

California educator of the gifted Robert Swain proposed that San Francisco be the site of the Second World Conference of the WCGTC. This decision to call the San Francisco conference the second WCGTC conference was announced by the President Dan Bitan to honor the initiative of Henry Collis as the host of the first International Conference for Gifted Children in which the WCGTC was initiated. The Second Conference was held in 1977 with several giants in the field of education

including: Jacob Getzels, Benjamin Bloom, John Gowan and Ned Herrmann as speakers. The executive board was expanded to include seven nations: President, Iraj Broomand of Iran; Vice-President Dorothy Sisk of the United States of America; Maria Schmidt of Venezuela; Levcho Zdravchev of Bulgaria; Warrent Lett of Australia; Henry Collis of the United Kingdom, and Dan Bitan of Israel.

In 1978, with the Iranian political upheaval disrupting the ability of President Iraj Broomand to continue to serve as President of the World Council, Vice-President Dorothy Sisk assumed the presidency according to the World Council constitution, until Henry Collis was elected President at the Jerusalem conference in 1979. He held this position until 1981.

• A DEVELOPING ORGANIZATION: THE CONSTITUTION, THE SECRETARIAT, THE NEWSLETTER, AND THE JOURNAL

As a requirement of incorporation in the state of Delaware, a constitution for the World Council was drafted by a subcommittee consisting of Dorothy Sisk, representing the WCGTC Board, and two of the founding members, Alexis DuPont De Bie and Elizabeth Neuman.

In 1979, at the request of President Collis, a permanent Secretariat was established at Teachers College, Columbia University, New York. The Executive Administrator was Milton Gold who supported the Executive Committee and A. Harry Passow who served as Honorary Director. A further undertaking of WCGTC was the development of a newsletter. In 1980, *World Gifted* was produced by Dorothy Sisk and published by Milton Gold, assisted by Beverly Goodloe Kaplan. The hosting Secretariat has published the newsletter throughout the years.

A major undertaking was discussed at the San Francisco meeting: the creation of a journal. Levcho Zdravchev from Bulgaria agreed to edit and publish a journal for WCGTC entitled *GATE: Gifted and Talented Education*. He published three issues of *GATE*, absorbing the cost of the journal through his Bulgarian Office of Gifted and Talented. In 1979 at the Jerusalem WCGTC conference,

Dorothy Sisk became the Editor of the journal, renamed *Gifted International*. In 1993 the editorship passed to John Feldhusen who changed the name of the journal to *Gifted and Talented International*, and subsequent editors include: Joyce Van Tassel-Baska (1998), Maria McCann (2005), and Taisir Subhi Yamin (2006).

• **SUCCESSIVE CONFERENCES AND PRESIDENTS**

Successive conferences took place upon the initiative of various leaders in the field of gifted education who submitted proposals to host a conference. Bruce Shore submitted a successful bid for the 1981 Montreal, Canada conference. It was attended by more than 1,200 participants from over 40 countries and featured 350 presenters. James Gallagher assumed the presidency of WCGTC in 1981 for a four-year term.

Aurora Roldan's bid for Manila brought the next conference to the Philippines in 1983, and the subsequent formation of the South East Asian Organization for the gifted. The Manila conference hosted 500 participants.

The WCGTC looked to Europe for a conference and held the sixth biennial conference in Hamburg, Germany, in 1985, as proposed by William Wiczerkowski and Harald Wagner. The conference hosted 500 presentations from seven different countries. A. Harry Passow became the next WCGTC President in 1985.

Calvin Taylor proposed Salt Lake City, Utah as the next conference in 1987. There were 1,756 participants and 400 presentations involving 775 presenters.

The next conference was proposed by Ken Imison to be held in Sydney, Australia, in 1989. Norah Maier from Canada was elected President. Franz Monks from the Netherlands was elected the next president and brought the next WCGTC conference to The Hague in 1991. Norah Maier proposed Toronto for the 1993 conference. She retired from the presidency in 1993 and was succeeded by Wu Tien Wu from Taiwan.

Biennial conference sites thereafter included: Hong Kong in 1995, Seattle, U.S.A. in 1997, Istanbul, Turkey in 1999, Barcelona, Spain in 2001, Adelaide, Australia in 2003, New Orleans, U.S.A. in 2005, Warwick, United Kingdom in 2007, Vancouver, Canada in 2009, Prague, Czech Republic in 2011, and Louisville, U.S.A. in 2013. The 2015 conference will be held in Odense, Denmark.

The four-year presidency terms during these years were held by Barbara Clark from 1997 to 2001, Klaus Urban from 2001-2005, Den Mo Tsai from 2005-2009, Taisir Subhi Yamin from 2009-2013, and Leslie Graves beginning in 2013.

• **HEADQUARTERS (SECRETARIAT)**

In 1983, the Secretariat was transferred from New York to the University of South Florida in Tampa with Dorothy Sisk as the Executive Administrator. In 1990-1993 it was relocated to Lamar University in Beaumont, Texas with Dorothy Sisk still as Executive Administrator. In 1993, the Secretariat was moved to Purdue University in West Lafayette, Indiana and administered by the graduate students of John Feldhusen. The office was moved to the Belin-Blank Center for Gifted Education and Talent Development at the University of Iowa in Iowa City in 1995 with the support of David Belin. Nicholas Colangelo was the Executive Director for two years. Then the Headquarters was moved to Northridge, California to the consulting company of Sheila Madsen and Dennis Stevens in 1997. In May 2005, the Headquarters was located at the University of Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada where it was supported by the Faculty of Education and the Dean, Ken McCluskey. In January 2011, under the leadership of Dr. Julia Roberts and with the support of a gift from Dixie and Pete Mahurin of Bowling Green, Kentucky, the headquarters was relocated to Western Kentucky University in Bowling Green. Tracy Harkins, the current Executive Administrator, was hired soon after.

• **CONTINUING MISSION**

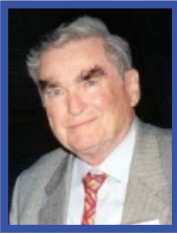
The World Council of Gifted and Talented Children continues to focus international attention on gifted and talented children in order to ensure the realization of their valuable potential to the benefit of humankind. Established by the executive in 1977, this overarching objective continues to guide the World Council in the 21st century. It is no small accomplishment for the World Council to have continued to meet its objectives all these years. The organization has benefited from the vision and energy of its founders and their successors in office, from its dedicated and hard working executive committees, from its support from elected delegates world-wide, from volunteers and participants who sustained the bi-annual conferences, from its generous donors and host institutions, and from its members across the globe.



Original logo of the WCGTC from 1981

In Memoriam

Dr. James Gallagher, one of the foremost experts in gifted education, died in January 2014 at the age of 87. Dr. Gallagher was an outstanding role model, mentor, friend, and colleague. He was a scholar and advocate for children, those who were gifted and talented as well as all exceptional children. He served in many different capacities in North Carolina as well as nationally and internationally. Most recently, he was Senior Scientist Emeritus at the Frank Porter Graham Institute at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.



Dr. Gallagher was President of the World Council for Gifted and Talented Children (WCGTC) from 1981-1984. During his presidency, Dr. Dorothy Sisk was Executive Administrator for the WCGTC, and she describes his leadership of the organization:

"He had such a strong presence--and serene, unlikely to be rattled when there were issues to be discussed and resolved. He always said difficulties are opportunities for inner growth. He had a favorite quote, 'The two most important days in your life are the day you were born and the day you find out why.' Jim felt that was part of our role in working with gifted students, to help them find their talents and their path. He was able to do that with his colleagues in WCGTC, finding their talents and enlisting/engaging them in activities of the organization. Jim was deeply concerned about societal issues and saw gifted students as 'architects of change.' He said he loved to be in the University setting because you are surrounded with lots of young people who are full of life and energy and ideas. He said we need to instill in gifted kids that living life to the fullest means serving others and giving back their talents. At his 60th birthday and my 50th, he said with age comes 'wisdom.' Jim had a steady hand on the pillar of our WCGTC boat and guided it with wisdom. Every time opportunity knocked, he let it in. We had outstanding conferences and speakers during his presidency. When things became hectic, he always counseled us to weigh options and ask questions. Jim was always up for a celebration whether it was a river cruise down the Rhine or a late night walk in Jerusalem."

Dr. Jim Gallagher's contributions to the WCGTC were myriad and they began in the early days of the organization and continued throughout his career. Dr. Gallagher was a regular speaker at World Conferences. He and his wife, Rani, made the trip to Prague for the 19th World Conference. But that was only one of many conferences in which he participated. One of the things for which Jim was best known was for offering encouragement for other professionals. He wrote for the *GTI* journal and presented at the conferences. The leadership and members of the World Council express their gratitude for Dr. Jim Gallagher's years of service to gifted children around the world.

Dr. John D. Kauffman, Scholastic Testing Service (STS)



The gifted education community lost a dear friend when John Kauffman passed away suddenly in October 2013. John was a fixture at gifted education conferences around the world and a wonderful promoter of assessing and recognizing creativity in gifted young people. John began his career at the Scholastic Testing Service (STS) in 1974 and was most recently Vice President of Marketing. During his time at STS, his efforts helped the Torrance Tests of Creative Thinking and the High School Placement Test become highly regarded assessment tools. John tirelessly promoted the Torrance tests by co-sponsoring creative competitions, engaging in long-term research studies and teaching scoring workshops. He loved to travel and spread the word about ways to engage creative students and was known for his kind and prompt response to any educator needs or concerns. He will be missed for his smile and gentle nature and his devotion to helping gifted students around the world.

GTI Journal: Call for Articles on Gender and Gifted

A special Edition with a focus on research related to gender and giftedness is planned for the December 2015 journal of *Gifted and Talented International*.

Anyone who is currently engaged in research on giftedness in relation to gender - females or males, or recently completed research on this topic - please consider submitting your paper to be reviewed for this special edition of the journal. (We are also interested to know ahead of time from individuals who are considering submitting a research article to be reviewed for this 2015 journal.)

Submit manuscripts, double-spaced, accompanied by a short abstract 100-150 words, with citations following the guidelines set forth by the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association, 6th Edition. Include author's full mailing address, phone, and email.

The Editors of this special edition will be Barbara Kerr, PhD (University of Kansas, USA) and Leonie Kronborg, PhD (Monash University, Australia). Send manuscripts to: Dr. Leonie Kronborg - Leonie.Kronborg@monash.edu

Search for New Editor of *Gifted and Talented International*

The World Council is announcing a search for the editor of *Gifted and Talented International* beginning January 2015. The Executive Committee of the World Council for Gifted and Talented Children is inviting applications for the position of editor of the journal. Interested individuals should submit a vita and letter describing their interest and qualifications as they relate to each of the criteria listed below:

- ❖ Significant scholarly activity in gifted education as reflected in grants, publications, and presentations at conferences,
- ❖ Established reputation in the field of gifted and talented education, preferably at the national and international level,
- ❖ Active participation preferable, but not essential, in The World Council for Gifted and Talented Children over a period of five years or more (e.g., regular attendance and presentations at conferences),
- ❖ Experience in editing material for publication,
- ❖ Ability to work with a team of editors in formulating and implementing journal policy,
- ❖ Ability to write clearly, concisely, and correctly using the APA format, and
- ❖ Appropriate institutional support.

Please email a vita, a letter of qualifications, and names of two references and contact details to headquarters@world-gifted.org with GTI Editor in the subject line, or mail to:

GTI, Editor Search
WCGTC Headquarters
Gary A. Ransdell Hall, Room 2007
Western Kentucky University
1906 College Heights Blvd. #11030
Bowling Green, KY 42101-1030 USA



It is not necessary for your institution to have the journal printed but if that is possible, please include budget information.

AUSTRALIA



In Victoria there have been some exciting developments:

1. As a result of the Parliamentary Inquiry into the education of gifted and talented students in 2012, the Department of Education has set up an Expert Reference Group to implement recommendations from the inquiry. A number of World Council members are on the committee, including Executive Committee member Dr. Leonie Kronborg, and Australian delegates Dr. Margaret Plunkett and Dr. Toni Meath. For information on the report from the Inquiry and recommendations: parliament.vic.gov.au/etc/article/1341.

2. IGGY initiative: Dr. Leonie Kronborg, Dr. Margaret Plunkett, and Dr. Penny Round from Monash University have been involved in a collaborative alliance with academics from University of Warwick in the UK (Dr. Adam Boddison and Assoc Prof Michael Hammond). The alliance is around IGGY - an educational social network designed to help gifted young people between the ages of 13-18 to realise their full potential. It provides members with access to valuable educational resources and encourages them to work with top academics and other gifted young people around the world. In 2008, the "International Gateway for Gifted Youth" - IGGY was created at the University of Warwick, in the UK, which has had a long history of encouraging bright students. IGGY members can create their own profiles, make friends, and collaborate with other gifted students around the world to exchange ideas, debate, learn, and explore in a safe environment. The alliance is hoping to result in a greater involvement of Australian gifted youth.

3. An extra Master of Education unit - "Developing Gifted Potential," Faculty of Education, Monash University was created for a special cohort of 35 DEECD teachers of gifted students working in the selective high schools, select entry accelerated learning programs in secondary schools and primary schools. It was initiated by Kate Mitchell, Principal of Box Hill HS, and is to be taught by Visiting Academic, Prof Barbara Kerr (Uni of Kansas) and Dr. Leonie Kronborg during March, April and September, 2014. This is an additional unit of study to the M.Ed. (gifted education) course for teachers.

Other states:

Queensland held a state gifted conference in March in Brisbane: qagtc.org.au.

Tasmania held a very successful state conference in Sept 2013 in Hobart, attracting over 180 delegates.

The Northern Territory has a new policy and an updated website: ntaegt2014.wix.com/ntaegt.

South Australia is planning a 2-day conference for teachers in July focusing on how to work with G&T students within the National Curriculum framework.

Submitted by Dr. Margaret Plunkett, Dr. Toni Meath, Sue Knopfelmacher, Australian delegates, and Dr. Leonie Kronborg, WCGTC EC Member

ECUADOR



In 2013 the program "Niños Talentosos, Jóvenes Talentosos" of Sueño Mágico Institute supported eighteen students that pursue the development of talent in Quito, Ecuador. In 2014, we are providing additional tutoring and professional advice, and focusing on ensuring that gifted and talented students get prepared for the presentation in our 8th Conference "Live Science Ecuador." We will do our utmost to accept twenty new students in the program from March 2015. To achieve this we need additional funding of \$25,000 which we are seeking.

The Institute "Sueño Mágico" for the Development of Talent and Gifted Children was incorporated in Ecuador in June 1999. In 2006 was started the program "Niños Talentosos, Jóvenes Talentosos" of Sueño Mágico Institute in view of the need to provide gifted and talented students an after-school program for the development of scientific talent in Quito, Ecuador. This program intends to provide students more than just tuition and education expenses. It intends to help each student to develop his/her talents as well as his/her character and integrity that will guide them as they advance in their careers.

The program began with the vision of one person, Dr. Fanny Alencastro and her dream of protecting talent development and high capacity in the most vulnerable members of society: children. For her the provision of an enriched extracurricular education became a priority and thus with the program “Niños Talentosos, Jóvenes Talentosos” of Sueño Mágico Institute started the Center for Extracurricular Development of Scientific Talent for Children and Youth.

Financial wise the situation is tight, but there is a loving environment. The program emphasizes the importance of volunteering in the community, and all students do volunteer work in the Educational Mission, cooperate in an annual Christmas party for orphans and poor children, and participate in the Annual Meeting of Children and Youth Scientific Talent Development “Live Science Ecuador.” The students study in an environment of intellectually enriched activities; experiences and responsibilities are shared, the rules of the institution are accepted, and there is active participation in projects of community service. The participation of our board members through visits to Ecuador, the ongoing dialogue with teachers, communications with the students via phone, email and Skype, has created personal relationships and mentoring opportunities that help our students to develop self-confidence and to face current challenges.

As we complete our eighth year of operation with this program we will be providing our utmost attention to finding sound practices for our students, and we are committed to helping our students to find challenging positions in their areas of high capacities. The council is also using our resources and connections to provide our students with opportunities and obtain scholarships. Our board is already networking with several Ecuadorian contacts to maximize educational opportunities available to our students.

The board works to make the necessary adjustments that will help ensure that every student who enters the program “Niños Talentosos, Jóvenes Talentosos” of Sueño Mágico Institute, sign a contract stating that they understand the rules and requirements, what the program will provide them, and what is expected of them. We demand that when new students are enrolled, they attend recovery and enrichment classes for six months. While carrying out this initial tutorial is very useful, we have found that it is necessary to give additional attention to their emotional development, as sometimes our students come from dysfunctional and very poor families.

Another priority of the Program “Niños Talentosos Jovenes Talentosos” of Sueño Magico Institute is to ensure that students have a better command of the English language which is essential for students to ensure interesting and challenging positions. To accomplish this a tutor provides our students with personal English lessons.

Submitted by *Dra. MDC. Fanny Alencastro Garaicoa, Ecuador Delegate*

ISRAEL



Recently in Israel a project was implemented based on Renzulli's conception. The project is country wide and is aimed to give a response to the needs of gifted youth (grades 10 - 11). Both the Ministry of Education and Sold Institute are in charge of the project. Once the youngster chooses a field of interest, a mentor is sought. His (or her) job is to help the youngster to define the purpose of his study, and the method to conduct that study.

In the annual conference that was held recently, two participants of the project were interviewed. One was accompanied by her mentor and the other one by her mother. All of them stressed the close relationships that were established by the student and her mentor, and that's why the name of the project is “mentor/peer.”

The project has been conducted already for 3 years and is very successful.

Submitted by *Shoshana Rosemarin, Ph.D., Israel Delegate*

JORDAN



The Pre-Graduation Project is an initiative taken by the administration of Jordanian International School, because we believe in preparing students for life and for our rapidly changing society in which critical thinking and problem solving skills and responsible actions are essentially required. The three categories of the project are: the Career Development Plan, Community Service Project, and In-depth Academic Research.

The students have worked with an assigned Advisor, who guided and documented the student's research and progress. A Project Review Panel will evaluate the final components of the Project. The Project will demonstrate students' ability in effectively integrating curriculum skills such as written, oral, kinesthetic, and technological. The Project will also provide directions for students' exploration and timely expansion of life skills, foster creativity, demonstrate individual students' talents, and apply learning to life. At the closing ceremony certificates will be awarded to all students who have completed the work satisfactorily, while plaques and prizes will be awarded to the best three projects to include one project from each category.

Submitted by *Janette Wakileh, Jordan Delegate*

MEXICO



2013 was a year of many changes in gifted children education in Mexico improving and paving the ways these brilliant minds can achieve their full potential. However, this only began to happen in the last years after the Mexican Education Law recognized the existence of gifted children in June 2009. People have created new public and private organizations in order to meet the needs of these little ones, and also some parents have worked with their gifted children in acceleration programs and homeschooling. Afterwards in January 2013 the Mexican Federation of Giftedness was created for raising the level of gifted centers' attention and assuring that every gifted child in Mexico, regardless of its place, could receive reliable and professional attention from gifted centers.

In the last months the largest gifted education centers in Mexico, the Centro de Atención al Talento (Talent Attention Center), Centro Mexicano de Alumnos Sobredotados (Mexican School for Gifted Students), and Mexican Association of Parents of Gifted grouped in one large organization called the Mexican Alliance for Giftedness. Creating in this way the largest institution of gifted children in Latin America with more than 3,000 gifted children that are receiving attention. These special students are grouped with the differentiated education method where in an enriched environment they can develop their intellectual abilities with a methodology designed to improve their intelligence and knowledge of sciences called the Intellectual Enhancement Program. Also, Ingenios Iluminare, S.C. established in Mexico City, has worked with programs on testing, staff development, and providing children with tools and guidance and creating new areas where they can develop their gifts and talents including workshops and an enrichment summer camp.

As a tradition in the Mexican gifted children community every May 30th the National Day of the Gifted is held where the existence of gifted people is celebrated but also they are honored for the multiple innovations that previous gifted persons made to our world. Gifted education in Mexico has become a more country-wide concern as they have increased the number of public appearances of gifted children and national conferences where this topic is central. One example of this rebirth of gifted education in Mexico in 2013 is that in November at Guajuato (an historic Mexican city) the IV World Educational Research Association Conference was held where for the first time the gifted education field was addressed. They organized three presentations and one symposium related to gifted education at this conference.

Investigators are also very active in some universities studying the gifted and their needs. For instance, Instituto Tecnológico y de Estudios Superiores de Monterrey (ITESM) and Universidad Pedagógica Nacional report new special courses or research projects about giftedness. This has generated interest in some students who are now writing their master or doctoral dissertations about giftedness.

However, there is still a very long way to go to get real support from the government and other educational institutions. There has been an evident growth in awareness in the Mexican population on the importance and special needs of gifted and talented children, although many Mexican states still report no gifted programs.

Submitted by *Andrew Almazán Anaya, Ingrid Dallal Fratz, and Zayda Acevo Zepeda, Mexico Delegates*

NEW ZEALAND



The gifted education community in New Zealand is busy at present. It is an election year here, which is a time for us to reflect on what we have achieved and what we want for gifted education, and to lobby for better provision. Understanding of what giftedness really is and of the educational needs of gifted learners are still seen as lacking. While identification of and provision for gifted learners are required in law, an inadequate grasp of what this means is often evident in classrooms and also at the political level. Gifted education funding for schools does not underpin the legal requirements, and increasing attention on assessment for National Standards is seen by many as undermining the emphasis on innovating and imagining we have usually valued in our schools. Connections are being made between the disappearance of the Kiwi "number 8 wire" problem solving approach from many classrooms and our falling PISA ranking, which has been particularly marked for high achievers.

Despite frustrations with provision for gifted learners in many classrooms, we have people of high calibre in the field, and a range of support networks for professionals seeking to better their practice in gifted education.

Our calendar is fairly full:

- A biennial conference co-hosted by giftEDnz: The Professional Association for Gifted Education and Ministry of Inspiration will be held in Nelson on 14-15 November. For more info visit eenz.com/ignited14/.
- Over 160 teachers, principals and parents attended the Working Together symposium in Gisborne - a great opportunity for networking and support - as well as exploring cultural concepts of giftedness.
- Over 300 delegates attended New Zealand Association for Gifted Children's Passion for Learning conference at Massey University in Palmerston North. An exciting children's programme complemented the sessions for adults.
- Two charitable trusts specialising in pullout programmes for gifted students, Gifted Kids and The Gifted Education Centre, are in the process of merging to become the New Zealand Centre for Gifted Education.
- Prof Roger Moltzen has been awarded the Te Manu Kotuku award for his services to gifted education.
- A Speakers Bureau has been launched - see giftednz.org.nz/speakers-bureau/.
- Massey University is launching the first in what is hoped to be a series of short courses on gifted and talented learners. Gifted+ explores dual and multiple exceptionalities. For more info email Tracy Riley at t.l.riley@massey.ac.nz.

Submitted by *Mary St. George, New Zealand Delegate*

SLOVENIA



Between the Celebration of the International Year of Giftedness and Creativity and the Preparation for the Next ECHA Conference

In 2013, the activities for gifted education in Slovenia were prominently marked by various activities of the Centre for Research and Promotion of Giftedness at the Faculty of Education, University of Ljubljana (CRSN), with which Slovenia joined the celebration of the International Year of Giftedness and Creativity promoted by WCGTC. To this end, various professional conferences for teachers and other educational professionals have been organized - several efforts were aimed mainly at raising the professional and the general public attitudes towards the importance of gifted education in different fields, from science to arts and culture, as well as their integration in order to overcome stereotypes about gifted students and their education as elitist and socially unjust. The basic goal of these professional meetings was to provide support for teachers at pre-school, primary and secondary level, pedagogues, graduates, and students of the Faculty of Education University of Ljubljana, and other professionals in education, to motivate gifted students for learning in kindergarten and school as well. Conceptually, the initiative was designed based on the findings of the research "Gifted education in Slovenia" from 2012, in which it was shown that teachers have different needs for further professional training for teaching gifted students, especially in the area of motivation. In 2013, altogether six conferences were conducted; two lectures for parents and other professionals were organized, as well as a professional colloquium on giftedness identification in early years and the round table "Teacher Education for the Gifted Education", with which CRSN concluded a year-long celebration with great success and approx. 1000 participants from all over Slovenia.

It is equally worth to note that in the same year Slovenia underwent intensive preparations for the organization of the upcoming ECHA conference, which will be held from 17th to 20th September, 2014 in Ljubljana. WCCGT members are all most cordially welcome to attend!

Submitted by *Mojca Juriševič, Faculty of Education University of Ljubljana, Slovenia Delegate*

Both outgoing EC members Klaus Urban and Taisir Yamin gave greatly of their time and energy to the organisation and made many unique contributions.

Klaus served for over twenty years in many capacities on the EC including having been a President, and will always be remembered for his strong and exemplary knowledge of the Bylaws and his work in this area. His vast historical and legal knowledge has, without a doubt, been a major asset to the organisation and one it could not have survived without. For this and his steadfast loyalty to the organisation, he deserves our deepest appreciation and thanks. On another level, he is also very fondly known for his humanity, his wonderful creativity, his musical personality, and his sense of humour - qualities which are equally important and never to be forgotten. Although his august experience is sorely missed on the Executive Committee, we are most fortunate that Klaus is still giving of his time to the

As incoming President my hopes are that we can continue to build strong ties with other groups concerned with giftedness, talent and creativity around the world while providing access to the most up to date research and findings through our GTI journal.

WCGTC by being a member of the Academic Committee for the upcoming world conference. His great experience and historical knowledge of past conferences will assure that it will run smoothly and efficiently. We have much to thank you for and appreciate and acknowledge both your past and present contributions and value your continued membership and support.

Taisir also served in many capacities on the Executive Committee, and ended his

term at the last conference as President. Taisir is to be acknowledged for taking on the WC during one of the worst and toughest economic times in history, and through his admirable administrative skills, navigating the organisation through those rough waters and out the other side. His personal concern for members as well as his skills and contributions, both knowledgeable and as well as financial in regards to upscaling the GTI journal, were second to none and are also to be remembered and deeply appreciated. Taisir is also very fondly known for his kindness, his strength and work ethic - the incredible amount of hours dedicated to the organisation (often days without sleep) that were put in, in the interest and pursuit of keeping our ship afloat. We also have much to thank you for too, as well as appreciating your loyalty, friendship and assistance supporting and promoting the upcoming conference with your contributions and continued membership.

Both of these members are to be acknowledged for their work and contributions, and it is hoped that they will inspire others to think about joining the EC during the next election period and continuing the work it does.

Thoughts on the International Year of Giftedness and Creativity and beyond...

During last year the WCGTC celebrated a landmark Anniversary Conference in Louisville, Kentucky, close to its current headquarters, as the main event celebrating giftedness, talent and creativity around the world. The diversity of the strands offered at this conference was second to none, and is still mentioned by many, and remembered. By all accounts the International Year of Giftedness and Creativity (IYGC-2013)

seems to have been very successful.

Having the seeds of its beginning in Prague during the International Week of Giftedness 2011(IWG). An international and creative community project, it was received by many with great enthusiasm, especially by the children who took part. Like any creative project it did go through some changes here and there, but the end result was an excellent conference, many community activities and some extraordinary artistic contributions, and an enhanced awareness and self respect in terms of giftedness, talent and creativity worldwide. Many countries took part over the year with various activities that they planned around the *Raise a Kite for Giftedness* project, with children as well as some organisations sending in contributions. Some were highlighted on the Kite site, with pre-conference summaries, and many more were included in presentations at the main event - the World Conference in Kentucky 2013. I believe that Community activities such as these serve to keep us focused on the populations that we serve and allow the children, no matter what their cultural or economic background, to participate which is a good thing.



In my capacity as International Coordinator I hope to share a number of examples that came out of the IYGC project very shortly with the rest of the community, and share some thoughts on what might be in the works for the International Week of Giftedness 2014.

Also please note in the event that any individual wishes to help contribute to the WC Scholarship fund by purchasing a print of the commemorative Man o' War horse sketch done for the 2013 conference, please contact Headquarters at headquarters@world-gifted.org or myself the artist, at lgraves1@eircom.net. Two thirds of the cost will go directly to the fund, thus adding to, and enabling economically challenged participants to attend our next conference.

On moving forward and the upcoming Conference in Denmark...

Initially I would like to extend my appreciation to the current EC members Ümit Davasligil, Denise Fleith, Leonie Kronborg, Ken McCluskey, Humphrey Oborah, Julia Roberts, and our excellent Executive Administrator Tracy Harkins for all of their exemplary work over the last few months coordinating the work of the World Council and liaising with the Danish LCC in regards to the upcoming

continued on next page



you will have to watch out for bicycles as it is the most bicycle friendly city in Denmark. It is also a very English-speaking friendly place where everybody dealing with tourism speaks the official language of the World Conference.

Just a few highlights to whet your appetite:

Shopping in Odense

Odense is a multitude of shopping possibilities. Kongensgade and Vestergade, which are situated in the city center and are the pedestrian streets have the highest concentration of shops in Odense. Here you will find shops that offer the best in Danish, as well as international clothes brands, beauty, interior design, and much more.

Need some exercise?

Odense offers lots of opportunities if you want an active holiday, including many parks, fine bicycle paths, and the possibility to rent a canoe or kayak and explore the waterways. You can also give the outdoor fitness center in Park Munke Mose a try.

Museums

The fairy tale writer Hans Christian Andersen was born in Odense in 1805. In Odense you can visit his birth home and museum, take a walk in his footsteps and see some of the localities that had meaning for him, including his childhood home. Also the city centre is full of sculptures and many of them depict scenes and characters from Andersen's fairy tales.

The Danish Railway Museum presents recreated historical environments from the early days of the railway and has 19 railway tracks filled with historical locomotives and carriages. The permanent exhibition is comprehensive and fills a roundhouse building from 1954. This splendid space enables visitors to experience the history of Danish railways close-up in an authentic industrial setting.

For more information on Odense, please see the city tourism website at: **www.visitodense.com**. You can view the site in Danish, German, or English. For details regarding the World Conference, please see the special conference website at: **www.worldgifted2015.com**. Join us next year for what will be a wonderful world conference in a truly magical setting.

World Conference August 10-14, 2015 in Odense, Denmark - Mark Your Calendars

President's letter continued from page 10

conference. Special condolences to the EC members who have experienced loss of family members in recent months. As incoming President my hopes are that we can continue to build strong ties with other groups concerned with giftedness, talent, and creativity around the world while providing access to the most up-to-date research and findings through our *GTI* journal. I would also hope that we could continue to assist marginalised communities to grow and flourish, and support the many faces of gifted worldwide. Organising our conference every two years is one of the ways in which we do this.

The World Conference in Odense, Denmark (2015), should prove to be one of the best yet, and planning is well on its way much earlier than usual, and this is a good sign. Tina Refning Larson and the LCC team are to be commended. The venue is lovely, the idea of community networking will be very productive for all, and the excellence of

the speakers being considered will all add up to a very worthwhile experience indeed. Being in Hans Christian Anderson's homeland and close to Legoland can't hurt either, especially in the event that participants may consider bringing younger members of their family along. As President I am urging all our members to start your planning to attend and hope to see many of you there.

*Artwork by
Leslie Graves
available for sale
to contribute
to the WCGTC
Scholarship Fund.*





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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