



WorldGifted

newsletter of The World Council for Gifted and Talented Children

www.world-gifted.org

WORLD CONFERENCE DENMARK 2015 PROPOSAL SUBMISSION AND REGISTRATION NOW OPEN

MAKE YOUR PLANS NOW to attend the World Conference in Odense, Denmark in 2015. Proposal abstracts are currently being accepted to present at the conference, and interest is expected to be high. Potential presenters are encouraged to submit their abstracts early as space is limited. Abstracts can be submitted for individual presentations, symposia, and poster sessions. Abstracts should be 150-250 words, and they will be reviewed on a rolling basis until the submission deadline of March 15, 2015. Conference Registration is also open, and there is a discount for WCGTC members. To verify your membership and receive the special World Conference discount code, please contact the WCGTC at headquarters@world-council.org. You will need this discount code to enter on the World Conference Denmark website to receive the lower rate. Discounted hotel rooms can be reserved on the website. To access the conference website go to www.worldgifted2015.com.

The WCGTC Executive Committee held its annual meeting at the Odense venue last August and believes that this will be a wonderful European location for the World Conference. Local organizers are planning numerous events to showcase their friendly and beautiful hometown and are looking forward to hosting visitors from around the world who are working to promote and advance gifted education.



Conference scholarships available - see page 3.

Youth Summit Model United Nations (YSMUN)

A parallel Youth Summit Model United Nations Conference will take place during the World Conference in Odense for those students ages 16-20 who are accompanying WC participants. Experienced MUN participant Freja Refning Hansen, daughter of local World Conference chair Tina Refning, will serve as Secretary General. The Youth Summit MUN will take place from the 9th-13th of August 2015 at the University of Southern Denmark in Odense parallel to the World Conference. The fee for five days will be 50 Euro. Registration will open in January 2015. For more information, visit www.worldgifted2015.com



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A letter from

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



As we near the end of 2014,

I would like to remind our members that we are now less than one year away from our exciting conference in Denmark 2015. At this time, I would like to highlight the incredible work that has gone on behind the

scenes by some remarkable people in order to make it happen.

As president, I would like to extend my thanks to these folks, beginning with our Danish LLC – to Tina Refning Larsen, Susanne Hoff-Clausen, Ole Kyed and the rest of their hard working crew - who have been tireless in their dedication - seeking out ways and means to make things happen above and beyond what could have been expected in respect of making the World Conference 2015 in Denmark a memorable experience for all. Not only have they persisted in finding ways to keep costs down in a country where that is not easy to do, but at the same time they have managed to organise extremely worthwhile and interesting experiences within a tight budget including a fabulous Model United Nations Youth

Summit - organised by 'youths' themselves and headed by Tina's own very capable daughter, Ms. Freja Refning Hansen. Also, for the first time ever, there will be a full Parents Day - on the Sunday before the Pre-conference workshops that take place on Monday. This LLC committee has also been hard at work promoting the conference in various locations and are to be commended as having been a truly wonderful team to work with.

Secondly, I wish to thank our multi-cultural and multi-talented Executive Committee members whose great insight and dedication in supporting and organising

an event of this nature - in a different country every two years - has been inspiring. I am humbled by their persistence, good will, and willingness to problem solve and find solutions to the many unusual and challenging situations that may present themselves when staging events such as these. It gives new meaning and truth to the term 'it takes a global village...' Each and every one of them has been instrumental in raising awareness of the organisation and what it stands for as well as taking

part in numerous conferences in different locations over the last year and many of them personally taking part in WC2015 conference promotional efforts.

Third, I would like to thank all other gifted and talented organisations for the work that they do and their kind willingness to share information about the WCGTC. Especially I would like to thank our affiliates and friends who have made a place at their conferences this year for our conference material and personnel. The European Talent Network, ICIE, ECHA, NAGC, FICOMUNDYT, The Danish Talent Centre, and many, many others have shown true collaborative spirit in the interest of helping each other and the World Council for Gifted and Talented Children in raising awareness and by disseminating information and understanding around the world on Gifted, Talented and Creative individuals. May this spirit continue and with it the strength to carry on.

Additionally, and as president of the World Council I wish to note my great appreciation and thanks to our hard working Executive Administrator who has acted as the heart, soul, and the nucleus of our organisation. A good Executive Administrator is a very important entity in an organisation such as ours and can make a great difference to an association. They are very hard to find especially one with the multiple skill set that our Tracy Harkins has. It has been my pleasure to work with her and to have her aboard this organisation, for now and for (hopefully) many more years into the future. A much appreciated member of our team.

As the World Council For Gifted and Talented Children will shortly begin its second 5 year contract with Western Kentucky University, I would also like to express thanks to the people at Western Kentucky University who have made it possible for the WCGTC to have a stable home, a fertile ground/ place to keep growing and maturing as our organisation heads into the future.

This article will not be complete without mentioning the most important people within our organisation and without which we could not exist. No organisation is possible without the belief and support of its members and those who contribute to the very existence of same. As president I wish to extend an extra special thankfulness to/for our members who work tirelessly in the many countries they live in, in the interest of Gifted and Talented Children. The WCGTC is proud to have you all as members, to work with you and for your efforts to attend our conferences, regardless of where they are held, year upon year upon year - You ARE the WCGTC.

Looking forward to seeing you all again in Odense, Denmark WC2015!

Leslie Graves

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CONFERENCE AND AWARD NOMINATIONS

2015 WORLD CONFERENCE SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

The WCGTC World Council Scholarship Fund will provide up to three (3) scholarships for Graduate Students and Educators to attend the 2015 World Conference in Odense, Denmark. Scholarship applicants must be members of the World Council by the time of application and show evidence of need for support. (If joining the World Council is a financial hardship please notify the WCGTC to review your situation.) Scholarships vary and can be used to pay for registration fees, accommodation, and/or flight costs for the World Conference in Denmark. In all cases applicants will be expected to pay at least part of the costs. Applicants must provide (a) information on the nature of their involvement in the field of gifted education, (b) the reasons why attending the conference is important to their work, and (c) a brief description of their need for financial assistance. All applicants must (a) complete the application form, including an email address, (b) provide their statement of need, and (b) enclose two letters of reference. Graduate Students and Educators from developing nations are especially encouraged to apply. Scholarship Applications can be obtained by contacting Tracy Harkins, WCGTC Executive Administrator, at headquarters@world-gifted.org. *Completed applications must be received by WCGTC Headquarters by March 1, 2015.*



THE DR. EDNA MCMILLAN PARENT SCHOLARSHIPS

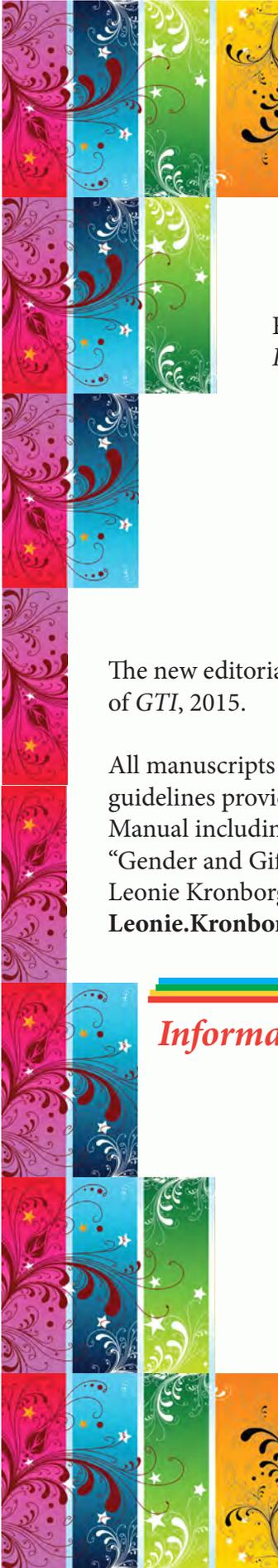
Dr. Dorothy Sisk will again celebrate the memory of her good friend and lifelong Advocate of Gifted Children worldwide by bequeathing two parents of her choice with sponsorship amounts of \$1,000.00 each in aid to attend the WCGTC 2015 World Conference in Odense, Denmark. A number of potential candidates have been identified, all of which would be excellent choices and making a choice between them will be difficult. Once the decisions have been made, and the potential candidates have been identified, they will be notified, and hopefully reply with their acceptance. The Edna McMillan Scholarship recipients will be announced early in the New Year.

Dr. Edna McMillan was a long standing member of the World Council for Gifted and Talented Children, and spent her life in service to the organisation, as member, delegate, executive committee member, and as an officer in many capacities, including Vice President of the organisation. She is remembered for her dedication, her fine mind, and keen sense of humour and wit. The World Council and its Executive Committee are delighted that yet again Dr. Dorothy Sisk has chosen to celebrate her memory by giving two Parents of Gifted Children an opportunity to attend WC2015.



NOMINATIONS SOUGHT FOR WORLD CONFERENCE AWARDS

In conjunction with the WCGTC biennial conference, the Executive Committee of the World Council presents awards in four different areas of recognition: Research, Creativity, Leadership, and Distinguished Service. Applications for these awards are submitted to Headquarters, and the Awards and Scholarship Committee, with the approval of the WCGTC Executive Committee, assumes the responsibility for selecting the recipients. Nominations for awards may be submitted only by a current, paid-up World Council member. Nomination forms can be found on the World Council website under the "World Conference" tab Awards section. *Forms should be received at Headquarters by April 1, 2015.*



**A new
start to Gifted
and Talented
International
for 2015**

Gifted and Talented International (GTI) is the international, refereed journal of the World Council for Gifted and Talented Children. This journal is devoted to publishing original research, theoretical studies, review papers, or accounts of practice that contribute to our understanding and promotion of giftedness, talent, creativity, and optimal development of children, adolescents, and adults. Its purpose is to share current theory, research, and practice in gifted education with its audience of international educators, scholars, researchers, and parents. *GTI* is published twice a year.

From January 1 2015, there will be a new editorial team for the *Gifted and Talented International (GTI)* journal 2015 - 2017.

The new Editor will be Barbara Kerr, Ph.D. (University of Kansas, USA).

Associate Editors will include:

Megan Foley-Nicpon, Ph.D. (The University of Iowa, USA),

Leonie Kronborg, Ph.D. (Monash University, Australia),

C. June Maker, Ph.D. (University of Arizona, USA),

Nielsen Pereira, Ph.D. (Purdue University, USA),

Franzis Preckel, Ph.D. (University of Trier, Germany),

Ann Robinson, Ph.D. (University of Arkansas at Little Rock, USA).

The new editorial team is keen to receive new research manuscripts for publication in the June edition of *GTI*, 2015.

All manuscripts submitted to *Gifted and Talented International* must adhere to the formatting guidelines provided in the 6th Edition of the American Psychological Association (APA) Publication Manual including in text citations, headings, tables, figures, and references. A special edition on “Gender and Giftedness” is planned for *GTI* in December 2015 to be edited by Barbara Kerr and Leonie Kronborg. Please consider submitting *GTI* articles for review and publication to Leonie.Kronborg@monash.edu.

Information on hosting 2017 World Conference now available

Is your city or country interested in hosting the next WCGTC biennial World Conference? The WCGTC is now accepting “Expressions of Interest” for hosting the 2017 World Conference. This unique international event is held every two years during late July or early August. It brings together hundreds of leaders in the field of gifted and talented education to promote communication among one another and share best practices and experiences. Past conferences have been held in London, San Francisco, Jerusalem, Montréal, Manila, Hamburg, Salt Lake City, Sydney, The Hague, Toronto, Hong Kong, Seattle, Istanbul, Barcelona, Adelaide, New Orleans, Warwick, Vancouver, Prague, and Louisville. The 2015 World Conference will be in Odense, Denmark. **Deadline for Expressions of Interest is March 1, 2015. Deadline for bids will be May 1, 2015.** More information on “Hosting a World Conference” can be found on our website at www.world-gifted.org under the World Conference tab. To express interest and receive an updated Proposal Development Guide, please contact WCGTC Executive Administrator Tracy Harkins at headquarters@world-gifted.org.

Nominations Sought for WCGTC Executive Committee Member Election

The World Council Elections Committee is seeking nominations for two Executive Committee members of the World Council for Gifted and Talented Children. Nominations must be received by April 1, 2015. The Elections Committee will review the nominations and present a slate of eligible candidates for a vote by the World Council members no later than May 1, 2015. A nominee for the EC must be a current paid member of

the WCGTC in good standing for at least five years immediately prior to election date, have attended at least two WCGTC conferences, and have served as a WCGTC delegate. No more than one member from any one country may serve as an Executive Committee member. The President-elect is from Ireland. Four of the current EC members are from Australia, Brazil, Kenya, and the United States and have 2 years remaining. Therefore any nomination must be for members from countries other than Ireland, Australia, Brazil, Kenya, and the United States. The new Executive Committee members will be elected by May 15, 2015 and take office at the end of the next biennial World Conference in Odense, Denmark in August 2015. A nomination form can be found on the WCGTC website under the "Executive Committee" tab. If you have questions or wish to submit a nomination, please contact Tracy Harkins, WCGTC Executive Administrator at headquarters@world-gifted.org.

WCGTC World Headquarters to remain at Western Kentucky University through 2020

In a recent meeting in Denmark, the seven-member Executive Committee of the World Council for Gifted and Talented Children voted to keep the international headquarters of the WCGTC at WKU in Bowling Green, Kentucky for an additional five years. The WCGTC moved to WKU in January 2011 with the support of WKU President Gary Ransdell and with the help of a gift from Bowling Green benefactors Dixie and Pete Mahurin. The Headquarters is located in a three-room office suite in Gary Ransdell Hall at WKU and the initial five-year agreement will expire at the end of 2015. The EC voted unanimously to approve the headquarters remain at WKU for another five-year period until the end of 2020. "It's an honor to partner with the World Council, and we are pleased WKU has been able to provide a secure home for the organization," said Dr. Julia Roberts, elected member of the EC and current Treasurer of the WCGTC. Added Dr. Ransdell, "We are pleased that the EC sees WKU as a welcoming site for WCGTC headquarters and look forward to continuing this partnership in years to come."



AUSTRALIA



Australia will be hosting a national conference in 2015 involving three associations; QAGTC, in association with AAEGT and IRATDE announce "Illuminating the Spectrum of Giftedness and Talent Development", an International Gifted Conference to be held in Brisbane, Australia 19 – 21 March, 2015. The conference website is <http://www.qagtcconference.com.au/>

Although a lot has been happening around the country, things have been particularly busy in Victoria in relation to work in the field of gifted education. The Victorian Government's Department of Education and Early Childhood (DEECD) launched the 2014-2019 Gifted Strategy 'Aiming High: A strategy for gifted and talented children and young people' on Wednesday 21st May. This is a direct response to the Victorian Parliamentary Inquiry into the Educational provision for gifted and talented children in Victoria and is the first government policy in this area since the 1995 'Bright Futures' policy. Also DEECD's Gifted and Talented Expert Reference Group initiative is a positive step towards building a shared cross-sectoral (government, independent, Catholic, early childhood through to tertiary providers) understanding of the needs of gifted and talented children and youth. This group is made up of 25 experts from Victoria who work in various roles within the field.

Victoria's four academic selective entry high schools provide an educationally enriched environment for intellectually gifted and academically talented students. The select entry network has been asked as part of the action plan of the DEECD's policy 'Aiming High: A strategy for gifted and talented children and young people, 2014-19' to provide outreach activities for Victorian gifted students in 2015. These activities may include virtual learning and/or face-to-face peer mentoring and/or vacation or short courses.

Four Australian secondary schools competed at the National University of Singapore (NUS) High School of Mathematics and Science International Mathematics Challenge in May 2014. These schools included three from Victoria (The Mac.Robertson Girls' High School, John Monash Science School, University High School) and one from Western Australia (Penrhos College). These young adults were outstanding ambassadors for their schools and for Australia at this highly regarded international competition.

For the second year in a row a Presbyterian Ladies' College, Melbourne student (Jane Tan) has challenged hundreds of applicants nationally to win a highly prestigious Tuckwell Foundation Scholarship at the Australian National University. Following the extensive application and interview process Jane will start her Philosophy degree in Mathematics there in 2015. PLC also won the Victorian Girls Schools State Chess Final and will now represent Victoria at the upcoming National Girls Schools Chess Final to be held in Adelaide in November, 2014.

The School of Education at the University of NSW is organizing a GERRIC Gifted Futures Forum for Talent Enhancement for two days in late November. For information on what is happening in other parts of the country, visit the association websites: NSW: <http://nswagtc.org.au/>; Tasmania: www.tasgifted.com/; Northern Territory: <http://ntaegt2014.wix.com/ntaegt>; South Australia: <http://gtcasa.asn.au/>; Western Australian: <http://www.gatcawa.org/>

Submitted by Dr Toni Meath, Dr Margaret Plunkett & Susan Knopfmacher, Australia Delegates, Dr Leonie Kronborg, WCGTC EC Member

AUSTRIA

Gifted Education in the Respective Domains

In cooperation with the International Panel of Experts for Gifted Education (iPEGE) the Austrian Research and Support Center for the Gifted and Talented (ÖZBF) published the book "Professional Promotion of the Gifted and Talented: Subject Didactics and Gifted Education". Eleven experts of subject didactics discuss the promotion of giftedness and excellence for their respective subjects and try to answer the following questions:

- What is the meaning of giftedness and what are the characteristics of gifted students for the respective subject?
- Which non-cognitive personality traits are important for the respective subject?

continued on next page

- What skills should an expert in the respective subject possess?
- What does gifted education mean in the respective subject?
- What are the possibilities of implementing it? (stimuli, teaching methods, exemplary tasks etc.)

The publication is the first of its kind to combine Gifted Education and subject didactics in different domains and wants to inspire both ongoing teaching as well as further research in subject didactics.

The book can be downloaded for free at: <http://www.oezbf.at/cms/index.php/veroeffentlichungen-oezbf.html>

School Quality in General Education (SQA)

SQA – School Quality in General Education – is an initiative of the Austrian Federal Ministry of Education and Women (BMBWF) that is devoted to developing and assuring quality in current school development programs. SQA standardizes two structural elements on all levels of the school system:

- Development plans and
- Periodic discussion of the achieved progress and target agreements.

Under the now mandatory SQA process, all schools providing general education (ISCED level 1 and 2) are required to set up a development plan on two special topics. The first topic is provided by the BMBWF itself and focuses on "Further development of teaching and learning towards individualization and skills-orientation" for the school years 2012/2013 until 2015/2016.

The second topic is provided by the school and can be chosen freely. Schools interested in gifted education can choose to use an exemplary development plan designed by the Austrian Research and Support Center for the Gifted and Talented (ÖZBF). The development plan "Specific Support of Giftedness and Development of Excellence" can be adapted to an individual's school needs, with support provided by the ÖZBF.

Elementary education in Austria

In recent years, we have seen an increase in the importance of gifted education at institutions of elementary educational all over Austria. Numerous initiatives in the field of elementary education reflect this increased importance.

The latest initiatives and developments are listed below:

- A professorship for elementary education has been installed at the University of Graz, Styria.
- Preschools and primary schools are urged to collaborate more closely to allow for easier and smooth transition processes. This is especially relevant for gifted children and the continuing promotion of their gifts and talents.
- The transition period from preschool to primary school has been redesigned in the Austrian provinces of Styria, Salzburg, and Vorarlberg (e.g. by improved and intensified cooperation between these educational institutions or by passing children's portfolios, including information on gifts, talents, and interests).
- The Austrian educational colleges have included courses for preschool teachers in their programs. In addition, they occasionally offer combined trainings for preschool and primary school teachers (e.g. educational colleges of Upper Austria, Tyrol and Vienna).
- The Austrian Research and Support Center for the Gifted and Talented (ÖZBF) offers various events, courses and publications on Gifted Education in elementary education, the most recent are:
 - The training course "Giftedness in preschools" has been developed by the ÖZBF and provides educators in the field with both knowledge on giftedness and its identification as well as methods to promote giftedness in preschools. This one-year training course is currently offered for the second time in cooperation with the educational college of the Diocese Linz in Upper Austria.
 - The event series "Colloquium on Gifted Education in Elementary Education" aims at bringing together educators and decision makers in the field of elementary education. This year, the second colloquium focused on "Designing Supportive Transitions for Gifted Children" and brought together teachers and directors of preschools and primary schools, quality managers in the educational system, educators from educational colleges and universities, as well as legislators to discuss best practice models and future directions of development.

Submitted by Dr. Johanna Stahl, Österreichisches Zentrum für Begabtenförderung und Begabungsforschung (ÖZBF)

DENMARK



Denmark is calling on new perspectives on how to implement inclusion in primary and secondary education – including education for the gifted and talented children, and of course we are looking forward to hosting the 21st world conference in Odense, August 2015. The focus on the conference will be Educating Gifted and Talented Children – Turning Research into Practice. The conference venue is Odense, the city where H.C. Andersen – the famous fairy tale writer – was born 210 years ago.

Inclusion is the new trend in education, not least in the Nordic countries as in many other countries round the world. Much political discussion has been paid to the growing economic resources given to special education in the ordinary schools as well as in special schools. The political discussions have led to a new school reform in the educational system leading to an inclusion of 96% of all pupils in the ordinary classes in the coming years. This has led to the necessity of differentiating the education in order to cope with the individual needs of the pupils.

In order to cope with the new trends and intentions given through the law, teachers need further in-service training in order to be qualified to teach children from those with special needs to children with special gifts. Much pedagogical inspiration is taken from John Hattie's research (Visible Learning for Teachers) just as positive psychology has inspired with its appreciative approach and the systemic approach with focus on individual resources.

We have seen in Denmark many initiatives within the last years focused on gifted and talented education. Together with a couple of colleagues I have written a couple of books for teachers and parents, just as Johanna Raffan from England has visited Denmark many times within the last ten years.

Initiatives have often been taken by local enthusiastic people in the educational field, and we have seen some networking between municipalities. A big problem has been that of financial resources to give special attention to the gifted, educating them in the ordinary classroom, as we lack proper research in Denmark, although we do see growing interest from teachers as well as from parents who would like to see gifted and talented education on the agenda. We also see municipalities working on a local policies for the area.

A former minister of education was inspired and found funds to finance a science talent center connected to a well known boarding school in Denmark. The science center has now existed for five years and is doing very well in organizing workshops and weekend activities, as well as work together with secondary schools and high schools. They also work together with the private schools, of which some have special programmes for the gifted. In Denmark up to 15-18% of the students attend private schools depending on which area they live in.

As you might see Denmark is in a transition period where we are changing our education focus to include all pupils' individual needs whatever level of talent. When you are in a transition period you are vulnerable and open for new ideas and perspectives. Therefore we welcome you with all your knowledge whether based on research or practical experience. We look forward to seeing you in Odense in August 2015.

Submitted by Ole Kyed, Denmark Delegate

GERMANY



5th German Speaking Gifted Conference to take place in Muenster, Germany

From 9th to the 12th September 2015, the 5th Muensterscher Bildungskongress will take place in Muenster, Germany. More than 750 participants are expected to listen to various speeches, workshops, and symposia from more than 100 speakers on the conference topic: "Potential Development. Gifted Education. Diversity Education."

The first confirmed speakers are:

- Prof. Dr. Andreas Helmke (Study Group Empirical Educational Research, University of Konstanz)
- Prof. Dr. Eckhard Klieme (Member of the PISA-Consortium Germany)
- Prof. Dr. Olaf Koeller (Managing Director at the Leibniz Institute for Science Education (IPN) and Full Professor of Educational Research at Kiel University)

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- Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Schneider (President of the International Society for the Study of Behavioural Development)
- Prof. Dr. Anne Sliwka (Professor for Pedagogics, University of Heidelberg)
- Prof. Dr. Michael Schratz (Dean of the School of Education, University of Innsbruck)
- Prof. Dr. Margit Stamm (Managing Director of the Swiss Institute for Educational Issues)
- Prof. Dr. James T. Webb (Founder of the des SENG: Supporting Emotional Needs of Gifted Children)

The conference is hosted by the International Centre for the Study of Giftedness (ICBF) in cooperation with the University of Muenster, which already hosted the 13th International ECHA Conference in combination with the 4th Muensterscher Bildungskongress successfully in September 2012.

Please note, that the 5th Muensterscher Bildungskongress is a German-speaking conference, however it is possible to hand in English-Abstracts in the Call for Papers as well. All information can be found on www.icbf-kongress.de.

Submitted by Christian Fischer, Germany Delegate

TURKEY



IV. National Gifted and Talented Congress held in Istanbul University, Turkey in 22nd-25th September 2014.

The Congress welcomed academicians, graduate students, undergraduate students, parents, teachers, educational leaders, administrators, and people interested in gifted and talented education. In the opening sessions, former president of World Council for Gifted and Talented Children and General Director of International Centre for Innovation in Education, Prof. Dr. Taisir Subhi Yamin gave an address on Excellence in Gifted Education: Towards National Agenda. A wide variety of research studies were presented and discussed with participants across Turkey in the congress.

Topics raised included latest developments, applications, and issues of gifted and talented education throughout the congress. Varied topics were presented in the congress, including, but not limited to, current educational applications for gifted and talented students and in the future, and systems and models in gifted and talented education. During the congress, there were also three different panels which discussed parents' education for the gifted and talented children, education for gifted and talented children, and domain specific education for the gifted and talented learners. In the panel sessions, well known scholars across Turkey shared invaluable ideas and experiences alongside their research studies on gifted and talented education. The congress was also covered by media to make awareness for the education of the gifted and talented in Turkey.

Submitted by Nihat Gürel Kahveci, Ph. D., Istanbul University, Hasan Ali Yücel Faculty of Education Gifted and Talented Education Department

SWITZERLAND



1st International Congress in Switzerland

September 4 till 6th 2014 the Center for Gifted Education and Talent Development of the University for Education and Teacher Training, Northwestern Switzerland (PH FHNW) organized and hosted the 1st International Congress in Gifted Education in Switzerland at the new campus in Brugg/Windisch. The 780 teachers, researchers, members from educational boards, and political authorities from Switzerland, Austria and Germany actualized their expertise with newest results from research, school developments, and best practices, and shared their knowledge beyond national borders.

Guest speakers from the USA were Joe Renzulli and Sally Reis from UConn, CT. For the other well-known main- speakers, presentations from more than 70 workshops, and for photos, see <http://www.BegabungsfoerderungKongress.ch>.

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The agenda of the conference was structured into four paths: detection and identification of high potentials, learning-architectures for differentiated learning in heterogeneous learning communities, coaching in learning processes and mentoring, as well as school development for inclusive gifted education and talent development. Special forums have been organized for politicians and board members and for talent development at the university level.

10 years anniversary of the Certificate and Master programs in gifted education

At the conference, the international certificate and master programs for further education of teachers could celebrate its 10 years jubilee. Since 2004, the PH FHNW conducts these studies under the direction of Salomé & Victor Mueller-Opliger with great success (more than 350 certificates) in collaboration with the University of Connecticut, USA and other competence centers from Austria and Germany.

Research Studies

Two research studies were published within the last year: One analyzed the situation of the teacher education to gifted education from the pedagogical universities (Tettenborn & Tanner, 2013). A second study explored the situation of gifted education in high schools and universities and the relation and interactions between public financing and support from foundations and other sponsors (Mueller-Opliger, 2013). For detailed research reports and more information on gifted education in Switzerland see www.begabungsforderung-schweiz.ch.

Information from Talenta-school, Zurich

In 1998, the school Talenta, Zurich started with nine highly gifted kids. In the meantime, the private pioneer school has successfully over 16 years worked with over 250 children. The first alumni meeting revealed that you can find them in highly interesting studies and professions... again with a broad band of variety, from marine biologist on to professional poker player. An interesting detail: Most of them have entered "Gymnasium" (high school for 20-25 % of the pupils) 1-3 years before the regular age. The younger, the more successful... Talenta awaits the first academic breakthrough by one of its alumni. (Bertschi, 2014)

LISSA-Price

The Swiss school price for successful school development in gifted education has taken place for the 7th time this spring. Lots of highly elaborated school concepts and serious best practices were sent in and gave the jury a hard time to decide, which of them should be awarded with the LISSA-prize 2014 during the conference in September. More information: <http://www.lissa-preis.ch>.

Submitted by Victor Mueller-Opliger, Delegate and national correspondent Switzerland, University of Education and Teacher Training, Northwestern Switzerland

USA



There are several newsworthy items that the USA delegates would like to share. The website of the National Association for Gifted Children (NAGC) is the best source of information addressing what is happening in gifted education in the United States. Details from the recent NAGC conference in Baltimore, Maryland in November, the state of gifted education, conferences held by individual states, and the Javits-Frasier Scholarship for Talent Development, are the tip of the iceberg and provide a glimpse of gifted education in the United States.

Each November NAGC hosts the largest convention devoted to gifted and talented learners, classroom teachers, gifted/talented coordinators, school administrators, researchers, parents, college and university faculty, and more. "Making inRoads" was the conference theme this year. All converged in Baltimore, Maryland, November 13-16, for the 61st Annual NAGC Convention. Throughout the pre-convention events, concurrent sessions, poster sessions, exhibit hall, general sessions, and networking events (both formal and informal!), we explored the many divergent paths that brought us to the hub. View the NAGC Convention website to see the highlights: <http://www.eventscribe.com/2014/nagc/>

USA report continued on next page

Gifted Education in the United States

Academically gifted and talented students in the USA make up approximately six to ten percent of the total student population (three to five million students). These students differ from typical students in terms of learning style, depth and complexity of understanding, and potential. This difference from the norm for their age group means that the education program for gifted students should be modified to meet their needs. However, most gifted students receive the majority of their K-12 education in a regular classroom, taught by teachers who have not been trained to teach high-ability students. For many gifted students, much of the time they spend in school is wasted; they have already mastered the material and are marking time until they are allowed to skip a grade or are permitted to take college-level courses.

The school situation for high-potential students from low income and minority backgrounds is especially troublesome. Data from every state reveal large "excellence gaps," the gaps at the top achievement levels between minority and white students and between low-income and more advantaged students. These gaps indicate a failure to identify high-ability students of color and from disadvantaged circumstances and support them to reach the high levels of achievement of which they are capable. These gaps also suggest there is a tremendous amount of talent being squandered. For those from families who can afford it, many gifted students attend private schools, attend weekend and/or summer enrichment programs, or have private tutors to compensate for what the schools fail to provide.

Read the executive summary of a national school survey of gifted education programs conducted by the University of Virginia. <http://www.nagc.org.442elmp01.blackmesh.com/sites/default/files/key%20reports/2014%20Survey%20of%20GT%20programs%20Exec%20Summ.pdf>

Read more about excellence gaps and view state-by-state excellence gap data.

<http://cepa.uconn.edu/mindthegap/> See more at: <http://www.nagc.org/resources-publications/resources/gifted-education-us>

Gifted By State

Because the federal government does not provide guidance or have requirements for gifted services, students encounter a range of services from state to state and even district to district. NAGC and the Council of State Directors of Programs for the Gifted (CSDPG) conduct a biannual survey of how states regulate and support programs for advanced students called State of the States in Gifted Education. Information on individual state gifted contacts and a selection of data from the most recent survey is available at <http://www.nagc.org/resources-publications/gifted-state>. See more at: <http://www.nagc.org/resources-publications/gifted-state#sthash.IOMtraWr.dpuf>

Matching Funds for Javits-Frasier Scholarship for Talent Development

Professional Development Network of the National Association for Gifted Children offers matching funds to support a Javits-Frasier Scholarship for Diverse Talent Development. Javits-Frasier scholarships seek to increase talent development opportunities in children from all cultures, races, and socioeconomic groups through action research, collaboration, advocacy, and professional development. Teachers, counselors, and school psychologists who are new to the field of Gifted Education and work in Title 1 schools may apply for Javits-Frasier Scholarships. Recipients attend special sessions at the NAGC convention that promote equity and excellence in advocating for under-represented populations of gifted children. In addition to convention registration and a travel stipend, scholars receive a toolkit, two-year membership to NAGC and access to a mentor. The scholarship program equips innovative and passionate educators to serve productively as leaders in their schools and communities on behalf of culturally and linguistically diverse students. For more information about matching funds, contact Becky Mehringer at rmehring@nagc.org

<http://www.nagc.org/about-nagc/nagc-awards-scholarships/javits-frasier-scholarship-diverse-talent-development>

Submitted by Wendy Behrens, Dr. Joyce Miller, Dr. Sylvia Rimm, Dr. Connie Phelps, USA Delegates





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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