

# **HISTORY OF THE WORLD COUNCIL FOR GIFTED AND TALENTED CHILDREN**

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## **INSPIRATION**

An International Conference for Gifted and Talented children was convened by Henry Collis, the Director of the National Association for Gifted Children in the United Kingdom in London, England in 1975. The conference was held at the Royal College of Surgeons in Lincoln's Inn.



**Royal College of Surgeons, UK**

Mr. Collis, the former Headmaster of St. Paul's Junior School, received support from Her Majesty's government through the Department of Education and Science and from Jon Burrows, the Chief Inspector of Primary Schools. More than 500 people representing 53 countries attended the conference. There were keynote papers from 24 countries. At the closing session, Dr. Harold Lyon, Director of the Office of Gifted and Talented from the United States of America, proposed that the participants join in an international initiative and form an organization to advocate for gifted children throughout the world. Dr. Lyon enthusiastically carried a plastic globe around the hall in which participants could deposit funds, and 150 people contributed to become members of the proposed organization (Marjoram, 1993).

## **INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION ESTABLISHED**

An organizational meeting in San Francisco was called by Dr. Dorothy Sisk, the Acting Director of the U.S. Office of Gifted and Talented, to discuss the proposal to create an international advocacy

organization to advocate for gifted children. Elizabeth Neuman (a Teachers College doctoral student), Alexis Du Pont De Bie (a supporter of the U.S. Presidential Scholars program), and Bob Swain (a California administrator of gifted programs), met to discuss establishing a World Council for Gifted and Talented Children and the possibility of holding an international conference in San Francisco. Bob Swain agreed to chair an organizing committee with Robin Swain, Martin Harris, and the assistance of the U. S. Office of Gifted and Talented. Alexis Du Pont De Bie graciously provided the services of his family lawyer (Kai Lassen) to assist in incorporating the proposed entity as a nonprofit organization. To qualify for nonprofit status, a constitution was required, and a committee of Elizabeth Neuman, Alexis Du Pont De Bie, and Dorothy Sisk agreed to draft the document. Incorporation papers were submitted naming representatives and founding members from three nations: Dan Bitan from Israel as President; Henry Collis from the United Kingdom as Vice-President; and Alexis Du Pont De Bie from the United States as Executive Vice-President. Dorothy Sisk and Elizabeth Neuman were listed as joint secretaries, and Robert Swain as treasurer, all from the United States. The constitution was submitted, and the World Council for Gifted and Talented Children was officially incorporated and registered as a nonprofit organization in the state of Delaware on March 30, 1976. The constitution described the purpose of the World Council as focusing world attention on gifted and talented children and their valuable potential contribution to the benefit of humankind. There were three world council objectives: 1) Initiate, conduct, and support research on the nature of giftedness, talents, and creativity, and the education and development of gifted and talented children; 2) Assemble people from all over the world who are interested in gifted and talented children for an exchange of ideas and experiences; and 3) Persuade governments to recognize gifted and talented children as a category for special attention in educational programs.

## **1977-1979**

### **San Francisco Conference of the World Council for Gifted and Talented Children**

The President of the World Council for Gifted and Talented Children, Dan Bitan (Israel), presided over the conference held in San Francisco July 27- August 2, 1977.



**San Francisco**

From the podium, Bitan suggested that the international conference in London be considered the 1st World Conference in honor of the contribution of Henry Collis on behalf of gifted students worldwide. This decision designated the San Francisco conference coordinated by Bob Swain and his organizing committee as the 2nd World Conference.

There were 800 participants from 23 countries at the San Francisco event. Keynote speakers included Benjamin Bloom from the University of Chicago; Ned Herrmann, the Director of the Whole Brain Center in North Carolina; Jacob Getzels from the University of Chicago, who presented *A Look Back at Educational Non-Acceleration*; and Paul Plowman, the State Consultant for the Gifted from California who shared *Futuristic Views of Education: Images of What Might Be*. Iraj Broomand (Iran) was elected Chairman of the World Council, with an Executive Committee consisting of Dorothy Sisk (USA) as Vice-Chairperson, Levcho Zdravchev (Bulgaria), Maria Schmidt (Venezuela), Dan Bitan (Israel), Warren Lett (Australia), and Henry Collis (United Kingdom). The constitution of the World Council was ratified and shared with the participants.

### **Executive Meeting in Iran**

Iraj Broomand held an executive meeting of the World Council for Gifted and Talented Children in Tehran, Iran in 1977. Levcho Zdravchev proposed a teacher training seminar to be held in Plovdiv, Bulgaria in 1980 with Joseph Renzulli, Dorothy Sisk, and Paul Torrance as presenters; and Maria Schmidt (Venezuela) proposed a one-week seminar on creativity with Dorothy Sisk and Wyman Ansley as facilitators. Zdravchev agreed to edit the initial issue of a journal for the World Council to be called *Gifted and Talented Education (GATE)*.

The revolution in Iran necessitated Iraj Broomand resigning from the Chair's position and, according to the constitutional procedures, Dorothy Sisk stepped in as the Vice-Chairperson to fulfill the first year of the term.

### **1979-1981**

#### **Jerusalem Conference of the World Council for Gifted and Talented Children**

The Acting Chairperson, Dorothy Sisk, presided over the 3rd World Conference held in Jerusalem July 26-29, 1979.



**Jerusalem**

Dan Bitan of the Israel Ministry of Education served as Chairman of the Conference Planning Committee. The conference featured presentations by 132 people from 16 countries. Plenary Sessions included four strands: *Different Approaches to Giftedness*, *Multidimensional Approaches to Gifted*, *Differentiated Curriculum*, and *Research on Culturally Different and Deprived Children*. Jacob Getzels (USA), Erika Landau (Israel), and Sanford Cohen (USA) presented in the strand *Different Approaches to Giftedness*; A. Harry Passow (USA) delivered *Nurturing Giftedness: Ways and Means*; Tom Marjoram (UK), Warren Lett (Australia), and June Maker (USA) gave sessions in the strand *Multidimensional Approaches to Giftedness*; and James Gallagher (USA) and Abraham Tannenbaum (USA) offered sessions in the *Differentiated Curriculum for the Gifted* strand. Sessions for parents and counselors were presented by Virginia Ehrlich (USA), G. Armbruster (UK), and Felicity Sieghart (UK). *Research on Culturally Different and Deprived Gifted Children* included sessions by Moshe Smilansky, A. Leichner, Erika Landau, Y. Goldberg, Blanka Burg, S. Marei, Nava Butler, and I. Lanzar. Dorothy Sisk (USA) gave the final plenary session, the *Challenge of Educating Minorities and the Poor*. The closing address, *Where Do We Go From here?* was delivered by the newly elected Chairman of the WCGTC, Henry Collis (WCGTC, 1980).



James Gallagher, USA

In addition to the plenary sessions, 23 seminars covered a variety of topics such as *Moral and Leadership Aspects*, *Cognitive Aspects*, *Identification*, *Program Initiation*, *Enrichment*, *National Programs*, *Creativity*, *Curriculum Concerns*, *the Handicapped Gifted*, *Culturally Different*, and *Research*. Special cultural events included a tour of Jerusalem's historical and religious sites sacred



to three faiths, and a tour of the Israeli Museum with a children's section organized for "hands on" learning. An evening of music featured Lorin Hollander (USA), a concert pianist who presented a concert and shared explorations of consciousness and visionary creativity. One engaging activity for the participants was learning traditional Israeli dances (WCGTC, 1980).

The new Chairman of the World Council, Henry Collis (UK), was elected during the Conference and held this position until 1981. The Executive Committee was made up of Dorothy Sisk (USA) Vice-Chairperson; Bruce M. Shore (Canada) Secretary; Ron Day (Australia) Treasurer; Elena Konstat (Mexico); Klaus Urban (Germany); and Dan Bitan (Israel).

A Secretariat or Headquarters for the WCGTC was established at Teachers College in New York with Milton Gold as the Executive Administrator and A. Harry Passow as Honorary Director.



Dorothy Sisk was designated as the Editor of the World Council journal, and it was re-named *Gifted International* (WCGTC, 1980).

In 1981, the title President was designated in lieu of Chairman for the WCGTC, and James Gallagher was elected to the position for 1981-83. Members of the Executive Committee were Dan Bitan



**Teachers College in New York**

(Israel) Vice-President; Bruce M. Shore (Canada) Secretary; Ron Day (Australia) Treasurer; Elena Konstat (Mexico); Jean Terrassier (France); and Klaus Urban (Germany).

### **1981-1983**

#### **Montréal Conference of the World Council for Gifted and Talented Children**

President James Gallagher welcomed participants to the 4th World Conference in Montreal August 21-25, 1981.

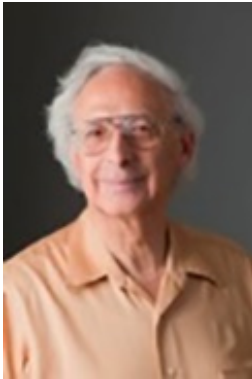
The Planning Committee was chaired by Bruce M. Shore, Secretary of the World Council from McGill University, and included Ronald H. Tali, also from McGill; Richard E. Tremblay and Serge Larivée, psycho-educators from the Université de Montréal; and François Gagné from the Université du Québec à Montréal. Richard Brown, a teacher of secondary science for gifted students in Escondido, California, served as the on-site coordinator to help ensure that everything happened



**Montréal**

as required by the Queen Elizabeth Hotel that hosted the conference. The vision was to increase the relevance of gifted education in general education. This was reflected in the conference theme: *Education of the Gifted for the Benefit of All Children*.

Keynote speakers included Burton White from Harvard's Project Zero and author of *The First Three Years of Life*, and Alanis Obomsowin, the Abenake-Canadian film-maker who gave the closing talk about Native North American giftedness. To expand the range of topics there were presenters from Tavistock Clinic in London who discussed gifted children with mental illness; plus recognized authorities on Native North America, the USSR, and China's key schools. Richard and



Bruce Shore

Margaret Parker spoke about giftedness among young people who are in trouble with the law. The conference had approximately 1,240 registered attendees from more than 40 countries (WCGTC, 1981).

The proposal to hold the conference in Montréal was inspired at the 1st World Conference in London. Bruce Shore attended a curriculum workshop given by Sally Patton from California, and shared his intention to propose a World Conference. Sally offered to help support both the conference and gifted education in the Montréal area by creating the McGill Gifted Summer School as a one-month demonstration program.

Shore and Patton served as Co-Directors. Shore looked after recruitment, local resources, etc., while Patton recruited the staff and created curriculum designed to demonstrate key models in gifted education. Patton worked with the program for four years, and the staff included key people in the field such as June Maker from the University of Arizona and Tom Hébert from the University of Georgia, among others. The program is now called *Explorations Camp* and serves several hundred children and teens every summer. Despite limited impact on policy, *Explorations* continues to inspire parents and children as a lasting legacy of the World Conference in Montréal (Bruce Shore, personal communication, Oct. 2, 2015).

## 1983-1985

### Manila Conference of the World Council for Gifted and Talented Children

President Jim Gallagher presided over the 5th World Council for Gifted and Talented Children held in Manila August 2-6, 1983.

There were 500 participants from 26 countries to celebrate and advance the cause of education for the gifted and research on giftedness. Aurora Roldan, the Chairperson of the Manila Gifted Conference, addressed the event's theme, *Gifted and Talented Children, Youth and Adults: Their Social Perspectives and Culture*. Roldan invited attendees to explore the problems, issues,



**Manila**

and practices of both developed and developing countries in an evolving commitment to the identification, recognition, and development of all gifted and talented children, youth, and adults.

This was the first WCGTC conference held in a developing country and the first in the Far East. Stimulating keynote presentations were delivered by James Gallagher, the World Council President who challenged the concept of a normal psychometric curve. He said there never was a normal curve because society tilts that curve positively or negatively through supportive familial and educational environments or through poverty, malnutrition, and cultural deprivation. Lucrecia Kasilog, the President of the Cultural Center of the Philippines, described the methods by which their commitment to exceptional abilities is implemented; and Leticia Ramos-Shahani spoke directly to the concern in the United Nations with first and third world membership, stressing the difference in roles of the gifted in developed and under-developed countries (Gold, 1983). A. Harry Passow, the Honorary Director of the WCGTC, presented a universal view of gifted and talented programs based on an international survey and a summary of contemporary literature in the field. He highlighted similarities and differences between developed and developing countries in goals, rationale, and conceptual and curriculum framework. Eliezer Shmueli, the Director of the General Ministry of Education and Culture in Israel, presented findings of a 10-year longitudinal study of gifted disadvantaged students in Israel. He reported that a structured change of environment in boarding schools was one means of improving scholastic achievement in potentially capable students. The results indicated that the advantage was retained over six years after graduation from secondary school. E. Paul Torrance offered an analysis of

**For my own part [as President of WCGTC],  
I have learned more from my colleagues  
around the world than I have given.  
-James Gallagher**

his Scenario Project conducted in 17 countries in which students wrote imaginary scenarios describing the future. Analysis of the scenarios revealed differing strengths among young people in the various countries. There was a correlation between the creativeness of the students and the number of inventions reported in their countries. Torrance asserted that these statistics could be changed for the better by helping students see themselves as inventors and creators.

Jean Houston, the Director of the Foundation for Mind Research in New York, said never before have we had so much ability and responsibility for the remaking of ourselves and our world. She called for people with faith in the future of the planet who are willing to develop richer, deeper scenarios of life that invoke a new image of a human being and a new style of being human. Her final challenge and hope was that gifted and creative students of the world might attain that new humanity with the caring and guidance of enlightened adults.

More than 50 seminars were provided with opportunities for discussion of a wide diversity of topics. Exhibits and visitations were included, particularly to INNOTECH, a regional center for educational innovation and technology which was originally sponsored through UNESCO. Active members of INNOTECH include Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, and Thailand, with Australia, France, and New Zealand as associate members; all dedicated to promoting cooperation among the Southeast Asian nations through education, science, and culture. The conferees also visited the Philtrade, the Philippine Trade Center for Special Exhibits.



Jean Houston

A mini exhibit of children's art work was available for viewing from an *On-The-Spot Art Contest* involving 98 students from public and private schools in metro Manila. Using crayons, watercolors, and oil pastels, the children depicted the theme, *What Would I Be If I Were Alive 100 Years from Now?* This exhibit was followed by an afternoon merienda that refreshed the participants with native foods and entertainment. In addition, a formal banquet was held for the World Council participants (Roldan, 1985).

## **Secretariat**

In 1983, the Secretariat was relocated to the University of South Florida (USF) in Tampa, Florida. Dr. Dorothy Sisk, a professor at USF, served as Executive Administrator. The Secretariat was responsible for the renamed journal *Gifted International*, edited by Dorothy Sisk, and the newsletter *World Gifted*, edited by Hilda Rosselli, a doctoral student at USF (WCGTC, 1983).





**Klaus Urban (Germany), Milton Gold (USA), & Elena Konstat (Mexico)**

During the seven years the Secretariat was at USF, all of the expense for the *Gifted International Journal* and the newsletter *World Gifted* were paid by the College of Education's Gifted Program. Neither Dr. Sisk nor Hilda Rosselli received salaries from WCGTC. In 1990, Dr. Sisk relocated to Lamar University in Beaumont, Texas and the Secretariat was housed in the College of Education and Human Development there until 1993.



**College of Education, University of South Florida**

## **Inter-American Conference**

An inter-American Conference of Gifted and Talented Children was held in Puebla, Mexico September 24-28, 1984. The conference was a collaborative undertaking between the WCGTC and DIF, a federal agency for encouraging excellence in Mexico. The site was the beautiful Colonial Hotel, in Puebla. Plenary sessions were given by James Gallagher (USA), Dorothy Sisk (USA), Aurora Roldan (Philippines), Irina Arroyo (Mexico), A. Harry Passow (USA), and Sandra Kaplan



**Dorothy Sisk and Hilda Rosselli**

(USA). This conference addressed the WCGTC objective: To assemble people from all over the world who are interested in the gifted and talented for an exchange of ideas and experiences (Sisk, 1984).

## **1985-1987**

### **Hamburg Conference of the World Council for Gifted and Talented Children**

President James Gallagher presided over the 6th World Conference for Gifted and Talented Children held in Hamburg, Germany August 5-9, 1985.

The driving force behind bringing the conference to Germany was Wilhelm Wiczerkowski, Professor of Psychology at Hamburg University, who was the only German participant at the First World Conference in London. The Organizing Committee, Wilhelm Wiczerkowski, Harald Wagner, Arthur Cropley, and Klaus Urban reported more than 1,000 participants from 47 nations, with seven plenary sessions, including those delivered by James Gallagher, Julian Stanley, and Henry Collis. There were 323 papers and workshops, nine conversations with noted gifted educators (Landau, Sisk, Freeman, Feldhusen, Betts, Maier, Marjoram, Gallagher, and Amthauer), 51 poster display sessions, 29 symposia, as well as social events and performances by young musicians and ballet dancers. In addition, young chess players matched wits with participants (Passow, 1985). A daily newsletter, edited by Klaus



**Hamburg**

Urban and Hans Jellen, was made available to the conferees. Participants heard exchanges of information concerning issues, opinions, problems, practices, research, and theory on many different levels. The sessions addressed streams of interest to parents and practicing teachers. Themes included *Cognition, Left/Right Brain Dominance, Creativity, Mathematics, Third World Problems, Curriculum Development, Teacher Training, and Leadership Identification and Training*. Of particular interest to many participants were the discussions concerning elitism and gifted education, a topic which was being hotly debated in West Germany at the time, and even brought out demonstrations. There were many opportunities for the WCGTC executive board members and planning committee to talk with one another at the local Hofbrauhauses.

There were several main themes and speakers: *Fostering the Development of Giftedness* with James J. Gallagher (USA) (presenting *The Conservation of Intellectual Resources*); *Cognitive Processes in the Gifted* with Franz E. Weinert and Michael R. Waldmann (*How do the Gifted Think: Intellectual Abilities and Cognitive Processes*); *Brain Function and Giftedness* with Hans J. Eysenck (*The Biological Basis of Intelligence*); *Creativity* with Edward Nęcka (*The Nature of Creative Talent*); *Leadership* with Iraj Broomand (Iran) (*Gifted Leadership for Peace*); *Creative and Performing Arts* with Lyndall Hendrickson (*A Longitudinal Study of Precocity in Music*); *Mathematical Talent* with Julian C. Stanley (USA) (*Fostering Use of Mathematical Talent in the USA*); *Educational Provision for the Gifted* with Helmut Klein (Germany) (*Situation, Problems and Development trends in Provision for Especially Gifted Children and Youth*); *Provisions for the Gifted in Third*



Jean Charles Terrasier (France), Elena Konstat (Mexico), Wilhelm Wiczerkowski (Germany), Elizabeth Adesokan (Nigeria), Klaus Urban (Germany) and Dorothy Sisk (USA)

*World Countries* with Aurora Roldan (Philippines) (*A Report on a Survey of Gifted Education based on the Fifth World Conference in Manila*); *Curriculum Development* with Levcho Zdravchev and Ivan Paspalanov (Bulgaria) (*Personality – Giftedness – Individuality: Implications for a Strategy in Gifted Education*); *Teachers and their Training* with Robert D. Hoge and Laurinda Cudmore (*Some Considerations Regarding the Use of Teacher Judgement Measures in the Identification of Gifted Pupils*); and *The Role of Parents and Families* with Esther Gelcer and Susan Dick (*Families of Gifted Children: Achievers and Underachievers*).

From the German point of view, the contribution of Helmut Klein from East Germany was particularly interesting. The German Democratic Republic (Deutsche Demokratische Republik - DDR) had special schools—usually with boarding facilities—for gifted children for quite some time, specializing in mathematics and the sciences, languages, music, sports, and even one for children wanting to become circus artists. The parents paid nothing or very little; however, the families and their children were required to have the *correct socialist standpoint*. Some children



were taught their first foreign language, Russian, in primary school, and for older students there was the option of additional distance learning (*Korrespondenzzirkel*) for mathematics, physics, and chemistry. Such programs providing opportunities for very bright and gifted children were almost nonexistent in West Germany at the time, and little was known about these gifted education initiatives in the West (except for sports—despite being a very small country, for years the DDR had outstanding results in the Olympics and world championship athletic competitions). Who would have had the tiniest inkling then that only four years later the iron curtain would disappear and East and West Germany would be reunited! (Annette Heinbockel, personal communication, Oct. 4, 2015)

The conference was extremely influential for the development of gifted education in West Germany. This can be seen by the number of articles (95) published in the media. One of the main reasons for all of the discussion in the media was that the focus on the needs of gifted children was picked up by politicians, representatives of the different teachers unions, and students—and it was hotly discussed as a political issue. Therefore, the result of the conference for individual families and their gifted children was viewed as positive as well as negative. During the conference, students demonstrated in front of the conference center against its theme, *Giftedness: A Continuing Worldwide Challenge* (Annette Heinbockel, personal communication, Oct. 4, 2015).

In the opening plenary session Dorothee Wilms (Germany), the Federal Minister of Education and Science who financed part of the conference, was followed by Joist Grolle (Germany), Minister of Education for the State of Hamburg (SPD – Socialist Democratic Party). In his speech, Grolle warned of *drill and the delusion of achievement* and compared interest in and caring for gifted children to the elitist and in the end destructive attitude of the Nazis (Annette Heinbockel, personal communication, Oct. 4, 2015).

Since the 1985 World Conference, there has been a wealth of studies, initiatives, and reforms. All the German states, East and West, now explicitly mention gifted children in their decrees. And although all the states have changed their decrees concerning acceleration (early entrance into schools, grade skipping, studying at university while still at school, etc.), they all did so individually, so the options for a gifted child can change when a family moves across an inner-state border (Annette Heinbockel, personal communication, Oct. 4, 2015).

The latest development: In June 2015, exactly 30 years after the 6th World Conference, the Kultusministerkonferenz—the body of all 16 ministers responsible for education—published a paper called *Förderstrategie für leistungsstarke Schülerinnen und Schüler* (*Strategy to Promote High Achieving Students*). The word gifted was not used, but the strategies are clearly meant for very bright and gifted students. The paper emphasizes the needs of gifted children over the



decades: Diagnosis, enrichment, acceleration, grouping, inclusive teaching, teacher training, and evaluation (Annette Heinbockel, personal communication, Oct. 4, 2015).

A special outing was a river cruise for the participants, which provided time for discussion and relaxation. A. Harry Passow was elected President of the World Council and the Executive Committee included Klaus Urban (Germany) Vice-President; Elena Konstat (Mexico) Secretary; Aurora Roldan (Philippines) Treasurer; Dorothy Sisk (USA) Executive Administrator; Elizabeth Adesokan (Nigeria); Ken Imison (Australia); and Norah Maier (Canada).



Leonard Finklestein (USA) and Iraj Broomand (past President of WCGTC)

## 1987-1989

### Salt Lake City Conference of the World Council for Gifted and Talented Children



Salt Lake City, Utah

President A. Harry Passow presided over the meetings at the 7th World Council for Gifted and Talented Children held in Salt Lake City, Utah August 3-7, 1987. The organizing committee included Calvin Taylor, Chair; three Co-chairs, Keith Stack, Ivan Muse, and Jay Monson; and two conference program coordinators, Sally Todd and Ann Larson. The theme was *Expanding Awareness of Creative Potentials*.

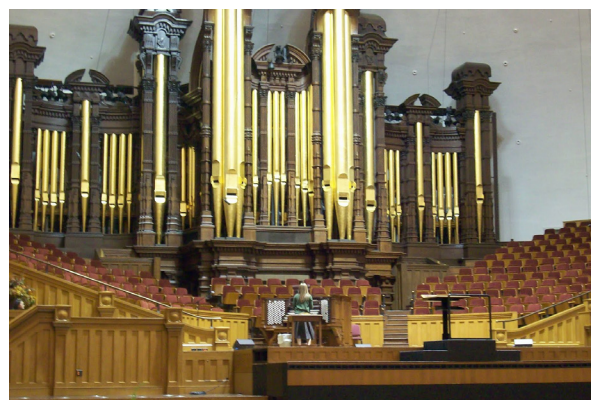
There were 1,756 participants, 881 from Utah. In all, 775 presenters were responsible for 400 separate sessions in the Salt Palace Convention Center (*World Gifted*, 32(2), 3). Several keynote

presentations were delivered by “names” in gifted education: Julian Stanley shared research on the mathematical thinking of Asian girls and Chinese children; John Raven discussed the Raven’s Matrices as a tool to identify a wide range of giftedness; Bob Samples presented strategies for developing creativity; Benjamin Bloom discussed teaching toward cognitive development of gifted students; Frank Barron dealt with creativity in the arts; Calvin Taylor presented research on creativity and the concept of multiple talents (and how teachers can foster creativity through a multiple talent approach); and Ned Herrmann shared his Whole Brain Model and the importance of whole person development.

Creativity in the arts and music was a prominent feature of the conference through the sciences, math, technology, leadership, futures studies, and whole person nurture. The conference was organized in strands, with strand coordinators who reviewed proposals and made suggestions for the program. The strands and the coordinators included *Brain Research and Physiology* with Barbara Clark (USA); *Guidance and Affective Education* with George Betts (USA); *Professional Training and Administration* with Frances Karnes (USA); *Critical Thinking and Problem Solving* with Sandra Kaplan (USA); *Identification, Testing, and Evaluation* with Cregg Ingram; *Program Development* with Bruce Shore (Canada); *General Curriculum Development* with John Feldhusen (USA); *Leadership* with Dorothy Sisk (USA); *Education for Gifted Secondary Students* with Ann Robinson (USA); *Futures* with Charles Whaley (USA); *Specific Curricular Areas* with Joyce VanTassel-Baska (USA); and *Parents* with Jean Wolf.



**Ned Herrmann**



**Mormon Tabernacle**

Special events for the conference participants included a concert by the Mormon Choir in the Mormon Tabernacle. In addition, an evening activity was provided at the Snowbird Resort, with a spectacular gondola ride up the mountain. Participants were able to view their shadow on the mountainside.

## **The Portuguese Association for Gifted**

The Portuguese Association for Gifted held a regional conference planned and implemented by Luis Nazareth (Portugal) March 16-19, 1987 in Porto, Portugal. The World Council was well represented by Eunice Alencar (Brazil); Zenita Guenther (Mexico); Erika Landau (Israel); June Maker (USA); A. Harry Passow, Hilda Rosselli, and Dorothy Sisk (USA). Doris Shallcross from the University of Massachusetts (USA) discussed her Ph.D. program in Creativity; Pieter Span from the Netherlands shared his research; and Helen Gilmore, an educator of gifted education from Florida, shared curriculum materials. The conference focused on the provision of programs for gifted and talented students and built on the foundation laid by the 1st Portuguese Conference held in 1986. The Association established a program to train teachers in the areas of curriculum development, guidance and counseling, and program development. Special outings at the conference included a tour of the Caves of Port Wine and a Three Bridges Cruise. The involvement of the World Council in this regional conference addressed the WCGTC goal to persuade government to recognize gifted and talented children as a category for special attention in educational programs (WCGTC, 1987).

## **1989-1991**

### **Sydney Conference of the World Council for Gifted and Talented Children**

President A. Harry Passow presided over the 8th World Council for Gifted and Talented Children held in Sydney, Australia July 2-7, 1989.

The conference was proposed by Ken Imison (Australia) and hosted by the Australian Association for the Education of the Gifted and Talented. There were 600 participants from 26 countries. The Sydney Town Hall was the scene of the official opening by the Governor General of Australia. Professor Manning Clark, the renowned Australian historian, asserted in an opening address that if Jesus Christ or Mozart had attended Australian schools, they would have been expelled—the former for general attitude problems, the latter for being different. Clark posed the question, “How can we have quality and not just lapse into conformity?” Brian Start of Melbourne University, a leading advocate of gifted education, presented his work with the Children of High Intellectual Potential (CHIP) Foundation; Edward de Bono discussed his research in critical thinking, and said there is a greater need now than ever before in history for good thinking because of intense economic competition, the variety of serious world problems, and the need to be concerned with long-term values; Ned Herrmann shared his Whole Brain model and research on creativity development, and challenged the participants to develop whole-brain thinking; Belle Wallace presented her Thinking Actively in a Social Context (TASC) model and stressed the importance of



**Sydney**

developing giftedness in diverse populations; June Maker discussed her research and work with the DISCOVER project; and Paul MacCready made a strong case for technology development.

There were 224 presenters addressing a myriad of topics including *Programs for the Gifted* in their countries; *International Perspectives*; *Fostering Talent in Preschoolers, Primary, and Secondary School Students*; *Gifted Children in Disadvantaged Communities*; *Dyslexic Gifted Children*; *Creativity*; *Stimulating Thinking Skills*; *Links between Disposition and Environment, Curriculum, and Innovations*; *Preparing Gifted Children for the Future*; *Identifying the Gifted among New Immigrants and Refugees*; *Accommodating Gifted Children in the Regular Classroom, in Individual Subjects, and through the Advanced Placement Program*; *Tertiary Education for Future Teachers of the Gifted*; *Mind Mapping*; *Longitudinal Studies*; *Parenting Gifted Children*; *Problems of the Isolated Gifted*; *Use of Humor in Gifted Education*; and *Methods of Simulating Thinking Skills*.

Children contributed memorably during the conference week with performances at the opening and closing ceremonies and at receptions. There was an outstanding concert in the Town Hall



**Frank Mönks, Marila Lopez and,  
Christina Cupertino**

with gifted young children speaking, singing, dancing, and playing musical instruments. During an International Lunch, teenagers from South Dakota in the United States entertained with choreographed songs and routines; youngsters from the Philippines performed folk dances; and young musicians in a Bulgarian band played rousing music. In addition, young inventors—who were state winners for their inventions in a National Competition—displayed and discussed their creations. Participants visited Government



and Independent Schools to experience programs for the gifted and to interact with students, teachers, and parents. Social functions included luncheons in Sydney homes and receptions at the Waterfront Restaurant at the Sydney Hilton and the Town Hall.



**A. Harry Passow (USA), Joe Caewood (South Africa), Rani Gallagher (USA), Jim Gallagher (USA), Dorothy Sisk (USA), and Wu Tien Wu (Taiwan)**

A majestic night at the Opera was provided, as well as a sunset harbor cruise. And a boisterous Australian night at the Argyle Tavern introduced the participants to the *didgeridoo*.

A lasting impact from the Sydney conference included an announcement of a major initiative by the Minister for Education in New South Wales to encourage gifted children to reach their potential. One of the main objectives of the planning committee in organizing this World Conference was to create awareness of the needs of gifted children. Maureen Robinson, the Conference Chair, said, "The knowledge that there will be an effort to recognize their needs and meet their needs, sets a seal of success on the conference."

Norah Maier (1989-91) was elected President of the WCGTC at the Sydney conference. The new Executive Committee included Franz Mönks (Netherlands), Len Finkelstein (USA), Aurora Roldan (Philippines), Belle Wallace (South Africa), Tom Marjoram (UK), and Wu-Tien Wu (Taiwan). The Executive Committee selected a proposal presented by Toronto, Canada to host the 10<sup>th</sup> World conference in 1993. Franz Mönks had previously submitted a proposal for a World Conference to be held in Den Haag in 1991.



**Belle Wallace and Wu Tien Wu, members of the Executive Board toasting WCTGC.**



Dorothy Sisk (USA), Franz Mönks (Netherlands), Belle Wallace (UK), Len Finklestein (USA), Norah Maier (Canada), Tom Marjoram (UK), and Wu Tien Wu (Taiwan)

**1991-1993**

### **Conference of the World Council for Gifted and Talented Children in The Hague**



**The Hague**

President Norah Maier presided over the 9th World Conference held in The Hague July 29 - August 2, 1991.

The Chair of the conference was Franz Mönks, and the planning committee consisted of Willy Peters, Frans de Wuffel, and Elly Roose (Netherlands). The theme of the conference was *Talent for the Future: Social and Personality Development of the Gifted Child*. An opening ceremony included a visual panorama of colors and sensations provided by Franz Mönks and Irene Mönks. The program was organized to provide an overall insight into problems and experiences in gifted education, leaving ample room for discussion. One highlight was a presentation by Joan Freeman (UK) who described how we might recognize and promote giftedness in infants.

Another highlight was a research symposium led by Kurt Heller of Germany who shared ongoing studies that focused on research needs in the field of gifted development.

Norah Maier (1991-93) was re-elected as President of the WCGTC at the Hague conference. The Executive Committee members were Franz Mönks (Netherlands), Wu-Tien Wu (Taiwan), Maureen Robinson (Australia), Len Finkelstein (USA), David George (UK), and Cedric Taylor (South Africa).

### **World Council Summit in Vienna**

A highly successful initiative by President Norah Maier was the planning and implementation of a World Council Summit in Vienna. The Summit reinforced the international profile of the WCGTC; attracted a cadre of outstanding individuals; identified key challenges and changes; and established action steps for the future. The Austrian Federation of Industrialists was host to the 100 invited participants from 27 countries. The generosity of the Federation in providing the elegant facilities, receptions, and luncheons was surpassed only by its committed involvement in the cause of the WCGTC. The Summit was opened by the host, Secretary General Professor Herbert Krejci, who shared the results of a report by a working group of young industrialists, academicians, and journalists. The report, *Discovering, Developing and Utilizing Talents*, was presented to the House of Industry during the Summit. It opened with a quotation from Karl Jaspers: “There is no greater injustice than the attempt to make human beings equal beyond the provision of equal opportunities.” The Federation expressed its intent to draw the attention of educational policy makers to this important subject. The Summit process was activated by Carol Casswell, Margaret Lipp (Director of Special Education in Saskatchewan, Canada), William Sturner (from the Creative Education Foundation in Buffalo, New York), Carolyn Yewchuck, Judy Lupart and N. MacLean from Canada. The Summit concluded with a commitment to the WCGTC by the participants to act on one major initiative that arose from the meeting—and to provide a report back to the WCGTC. The Mayor of Vienna, Dr. Zilk, treated the Summit participants to a *Heurigen Abend* filled with gaiety, dancing, and international friendship.



**Joan Freeman**



**Franz Mönks, Norah Maier, Belle Wallace, Leonard Finkelstein, Dorothy Sisk, Wu Tien Wu, and Tom Marjoram**

**1993-1995**

**Toronto Conference of the World Council for Gifted and Talented Children**



**Toronto**

President Norah Maier presided over the 10th World Council for Gifted and Talented Children Conference held in Toronto August 8-13, 1993 with more than 1,200 participants from 65 countries and 400 presentations.

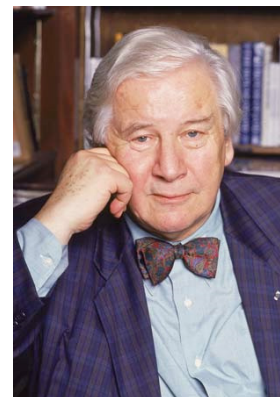
The three Canadian delegates, Janice Leroux, Margaret Lipp, and Judy Lupart, participated in developing strategies for organizing the conference. These delegates, with the assistance of Colin Lane, Edna McMillan, and Elizabeth Smyth, served as a Planning Committee. The theme was *The Gifted Globe*, and the program featured eminent speakers, including Sir Peter Ustinov, Ambassador at large for UNICEF, who shared *How to be a Global Citizen*, with a message of concern for the waste of human potential.

President Norah Maier addressed the opening day assembly with the topic *Toward a Thinking Globe: The Development of Human Talent*; Michael Fullan, Dean of the Faculty of Education at the University of Toronto presented *Change Forces Probing the Depths of Educational Reform*, focusing on change forces within the educational reform movement; Paul MacCready, the inventor of the first human powered flight, the *Gossamer*, presented *Raising Potential to Achieve a Balance Between Technology and Nature: Creating a Desirable, Sustainable World*—MacCready was concerned with raising potential to achieve a balance between technology and nature; Alvin Law modeled a positive attitude developed from his challenging experience as a person with a physical disability with the topic *A Positive Attitude: The Ultimate Challenge*; Robert Sternberg, Professor of Psychology and Education at Yale University (USA), reported on the *Thinking Styles and the Gifted*; and the Honorable John Polanyi, recipient of the 1986 Nobel Prize in Chemistry,



discussed *Discovering the World--And Changing It*.

A Youth Summit with 73 participants from 15 countries was held to help young people develop their wisdom and expand their experiences. At the conclusion of their Summit, the students presented five resolutions to the WCGTC: 1) That all teachers be better trained and regularly updated in educational philosophies and practices; 2) That young people be grouped according to individual ability and needs; 3) That all countries advocate a broad-based identification policy so that no talent is wasted; 4) That all departments of education have student input into decision-making; and 5) That students be given the opportunity to gain a voice by having representatives in the World Council for Gifted and Talented Children. One Canadian student said, "This conference has changed me, and now I have to make use of all these changes." An American student stated, "I believe that no one is better qualified to address educational issues than students themselves, and it is up to us, the gifted and talented, to take a stand. It's time to make a change and it's up to us to make it." Maurice Strong, Chairman of Ontario Hydro Corporation was the closing keynote speaker with the topic *Needed: A Global Ethic*. The closing ceremony depicted the



Sir Peter Ustinov



Aurora Roldan (Phillipines) and  
A. Harry Passow, WCGTC President

history of Chinese dynasties performed by the Chinese community of Toronto, and the participants were honored with a closing banquet and dance on the last conference night in Toronto.

### New WCGTC Logo

A new logo was introduced at the Toronto conference and in Volume 13 (1) of the *World Gifted* newsletter. The original logo, borrowed with permission from the National Association of Able Children in Education (UK), depicted a child in a maze. The new one—designed for the WCGTC by Michael Sauer, a student at the Hamburg School of Design—has the child with upstretched arms emerging from the maze. According to President Norah Maier, the new logo represented the field of gifted education in a state of great activity and development.

Wu-Tien Wu (1993-95) was elected president of the WCGTC at the Toronto conference. Executive Committee members consisted of Barbara Clark (USA) Vice-President; Maureen Robinson (Australia)



Secretary; Janice Leroux (Canada) Treasurer; David George (UK); Cedric Taylor (South Africa); and Barbara Grillmayr (Austria).

## Secretariat

Effective August 1, 1995, the Secretariat moved to the Connie Belin and Jacqueline Blank International Center for Gifted Education and Talent Development at the University of Iowa. John Feldhusen at Purdue University agreed to serve as editor of *Gifted and Talented International*, while Nicholas Colangelo took up the position of Executive Administrator, with the responsibility of publishing the *World Gifted* newsletter at the University of Iowa (WCGTC, 1995). Dr. Colangelo served as Executive Director until 1997.

## 1995-1997

### Hong Kong Conference of the World Council for Gifted and Talented Children



President Wu-Tien Wu welcomed the participants to the 11th World Council for Gifted and Talented Children Conference held in Hong Kong July 30 - August 4, 1995.



Hong Kong

The theme was *Maximizing Potential: Lengthening and Strengthening our Stride*, and 560 participants from 40 countries attended. A satellite meeting organized by the National Academy of Science in the People's Republic of China followed the World Council Meeting.



**Wu Tein Wu**

The Opening Ceremony featured performances in the Chinese tradition by local talent. A Lion Dance team of agile young people began the proceedings, followed by the Hong Kong Children's Choir in brilliant Chinese costumes. The final performance showcased the Hong Kong Juvenile and Youth Chinese Classical Orchestra, playing traditional Chinese instruments. A Welcome Reception followed the Opening Ceremony. Meetings were held in the Hong Kong Convention and Education Center with glass-walled rooms that afforded breathtaking views of the harbor and towering skyline.

Keynote speakers for the conference were Linda Silverman (USA), who presented on *The Universal Experience of Being Out-of-Sync*; Irving Sato (USA) on *Curriculum Imperative: Toward Powerful Quality Curricula for the Gifted /Talented*; Klaus Urban (Germany) on *Modeling Creativity: The Convergence of Divergence or the Art of Balancing*; Miraca Gross (Australia) on *Changing Teacher Attitudes toward Gifted Children: An Early and Essential Step*; and Cedric Taylor (South Africa) on *Social and Cultural Aspects of Underachievement: An International Perspective*.



**Linda Silverman**

There were also technical education visits to The Education Department Resources Center, the Hong Kong International School, the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts, the Hong Kong Sports Institute, institutes for training students in design, and volunteer organizations providing education for the disabled.

The International Gifted Youth Program (GYP)—formerly known as the Youth Summit—hosted 96 students, ages 12-16, from 14 countries. Program leaders were Larry and Darlene Neumann (USA). The youth program was held on the Hong Kong International School campus, and the students participated in drama, art, music, video production, and other educational activities. The young people got to experience ferry rides to outlying islands and visits to Hong Kong Park, the Science Museum, the Space Museum, the Cultural Center, the Giant Buddha, the Peak, Ocean Park Amusement Park, and the Stanley Market.

A special social highlight of the conference was a night Harbor Dinner Cruise on the *Pearl of the Orient* arranged by the organizing committee for parents of local gifted students and conference





**Barbara Grillmayr (Austria), Jimmy Chan (Hong Kong), Maureen Robinson (Australia), Irving Sato (USA), and Klaus Urban (Germany)**

participants, their spouses, and/or parents. A buffet dinner was served while the ship cruised around Victoria Harbor and guests enjoyed the night scenery of Hong Kong.

Wu-Tien Wu (1995-97) was re-elected as the president of the WCGTC. The Executive Committee included Barbara Clark (USA) Vice-President; Barbara Grillmayr (Austria) Secretary; Janice Leroux (Canada) Treasurer; Miraca Gross (Australia); Klaus Urban (Germany); and Cedric Taylor (South Africa).

## **Headquarters**

The Headquarters for the WCGTC was moved to Northridge, California to the consulting company of Sheila Madsen and Dennis Stevens for 1997-2005. The World Council is grateful to the dedication and work of Sheila and Dennis, particularly during Sheila's illness and death.

## **1997-1999**

### **Seattle Conference of the World Council for Gifted and Talented Children**

President Wu-Tien Wu presided over the 12th World Conference of the World Council for Gifted and Talented Children held in Seattle, Washington July 30-August 1, 1997.



**Seattle**



The organizing committee worked with the Conference Co-Chairs, Nancy Robinson and Gail Hanninen. A plenary session, *Lessons Learned and Promises to Keep*, was presented by Joseph Renzulli (USA), who shared the rationale, objectives, and direction of the National Research Center on the Gifted and Talented at the University of Connecticut. The Center was funded by the Javits program of the U.S. Department of Education in Washington D.C. Renzulli expressed a concern for the mechanisms and methods of identifying gifted individuals and cautioned against becoming complacent in this endeavor. Dean Keith Simonton (USA) presented a plenary session entitled *Giftedness, Talent and Genius: How the Same? How Different?* He challenged education to find ways to elicit productivity from the potential of gifted children. Simonton noted that social

**We want to thank the team of volunteers we had helping us to make the visit to Seattle and the U.S. a positive experience.**

**-Dr. Nancy Robinson & Dr. Gail Hanninen**

interaction deflects talents in particular directions, and perhaps we could construct the social interactions to result in productive deflections. He questioned whether school was the best place to do this. Another highlight was a session by Jose Assouline and Susan Assouline

(USA), who set out to debunk a few myths about the biology of learning. They offered evidence that memory occurs at the chemical level and—when we think—synapses fire and activate electro-chemical reactions. These reactions are stored as chemical memories of the earlier reaction to the stimulus of thinking. When we process similar thoughts again, this causes an identical or similar synapse firing, with the electro-chemical reaction being faster this time around. The reaction has higher amplitude and lasts longer because the base was established by previous thinking. The implication, according to the Assoulines, is that when thought-provoking stimuli are provided to students through various methods, better learning will occur (Edmunds, 2000).

Invited speakers covered four areas: *Curriculum and Programs*, *Creativity and Identification*, *Emotional Development*, and *Professional Development*. The six invited speakers for the area of *Curriculum and Programs* were Abraham Tannenbaum (USA), who presented *Programs for the Gifted: To Be or Not To Be*; James Gallagher (USA) spoke on *Preparing the Gifted Student as an Independent Learner*; Joyce VanTassel-Baska (USA) shared *Can Appropriate Curriculum Become a Reality in Schools?*; Lauren Sosniak discussed *If We Learn What We Live: An Everyday Curriculum for the Development of Talent*; Carol Tomlinson (USA) presented *Differentiating Instruction for Gifted Learners in Mixed Ability Settings: Challenge and Potential*; and Paule Eckhaus shared *Straddling the Globe: Connecting Like Minds*. Four invited speakers presented in the *Creativity and Identification* stream: Rena Subotnik (USA) on *Developing Young Adolescent Performers*; Mary Frasier (USA) on *The Etiology of the Core Attributes of Giftedness*; John Feldhusen (USA) on *Talent, Creativity, and Expertise*; and M. K. Raina (India) on *Recognizing Indigenous Creativity*.

There were five invited speakers for the area of *Emotional Development*: Linda Silverman (USA) on *Through the Lens of Giftedness*; Michael Piechowski (USA) on *Emotional Giftedness: An Expanded View*; Barbara Kerr and Sharon Kurpus (USA) on *Brynhild's Fire: Talent, Courage and Betrayal in the Lives of At-Risk Girls*; Irma Buratti on *Affections and Emotions in Gifted and Talented Adolescents*; and Beatriz Gonzalez on *Gifted Children and Social Maladjustment*. There were also invited speakers for the area of *Professional Development*: Nancy Robinson (USA) on *The Interface between Secondary and Post-Secondary Schools: Alternatives Before and During College of Academically Gifted Students*; Wu-Tien Wu (Taiwan) on *Educational Reform and Gifted Education*; and Peter Rosenstein (USA) on *Gifted Education in the United States: Past, Present, and Future* (Nancy Robinson, personal communication, Oct. 31, 2015).

Gail Hanninen coordinated the activities with the youth, which enhanced a program offered by Marilyn Schoeman Dow (USA) on Leadership, Environment, and Technology. The students were impressed and motivated as they learned about successful young entrepreneurs' businesses. They then identified their own interests, abilities and preferences and began matching them to create their own businesses (Dow, 2000). The 41 young people who participated in the Youth Symposium represented 5 countries and 14 states. They visited a Fish Hatchery and Candy Factory in Issaquah, toured Ballard Locks and Puget Sound, and explored the Museum of Flight, including Air Force One, which was used by U.S. Presidents Kennedy, Johnson, and Nixon (Gail Hanninen personal communication, Oct. 31, 2015).

Several social events were provided for the conference participants, one at the Seattle Science Center, where the attendees had the facility for their exclusive use that evening. Everyone was provided passes to the Monorail to get to the Center and back, and there was



**Youth Symposium**

an I-Max film for the participants with a special showing. The film was about the South Pole and ended with scientists from many countries standing around a designated point at the pole, planting flags of their nations. This was an echo of the opening ceremony, where flags from 42 countries were displayed by students attending the youth program directed by Gail Hanninen. The participants also went to Blake Island in Puget Sound for a salmon feast, Native American dancing, and storytelling, which was great fun.



**Barbara Clark**

Dr. Barbara Clark was elected as president of the WCGTC at the end of the conference. The Executive Committee included Klaus Urban (Germany), Shirley Kokot (South Africa), Janice Leroux (Canada), Miraca Gross (Australia), Juan Alonso (Spain), and Utami Munandar (Indonesia).

### **1999-2001**

### **Istanbul Conference of the World Council for Gifted and Talented Children**

President Barbara Clark presided over the 13th World Conference of the World Council for Gifted and Talented Children in Istanbul, Turkey August 2-6, 1999. The event was co-hosted by Yeni Ufuklar-Koleji, and the Co-chairs of the conference committee were Nazif



**Istanbul**

Ulgen and Ümit Davasligil (assisted by Burhaniye Mah and Resmi Efendi Sok). Edna McMillan was the Conference Coordinator. The theme was *Gifted and Talented: A Challenge for the New Millennium*. There were 150 presentations from more than 30 nations. Pre-conference workshops included *Critical Principles of Teaching Gifted Learners* by Barbara Clark (USA); *Catering for Gifted: Gagné's Differentiated Model of Giftedness* by François Gagné (Canada); *Talent Development* by Eunice Alencar (Brazil); *Creativity in the 21st Century* by Miraca Gross (Australia); and *Creativity: Assessing, Challenging and Nurturing* by Klaus Urban (Germany). The conference had a great positive impact on public opinion about gifted children. It created the basis for the establishment of the Division of Gifted Education for the first time in Turkey. Umit Davasligil said, "It especially gave me the motivation to be the pioneer in establishing this division at Istanbul University in 2002 and opening programs at the undergraduate and graduate levels. Since the conference, the



awareness of people in giftedness has been increasing and new divisions in this area have been opened in several other universities” (Umit Davasligil, personal communication, Nov. 3, 2015).

Keynote speakers included Eunice Alencar (Brazil) presenting *Mastering Creativity for Education in the 21st Century*; François Gagné (Canada) discussing *The Complex Choreography of Talent*



François Gagné

*Development*; Todd Siler (USA) sharing *Tapping the Creative Power of the Gifted and Talented: The Future of Education in a Civil Society*; and Lannie Kanevsky (Canada) offering *A Sense of the Individual*.

Barbara Clark (1999-2001) was re-elected as the President of the WCGTC. Executive Committee members were Klaus Urban (Germany) Vice-President; Shirley Kokot (South Africa) Secretary; Janice Leroux (Canada) Treasurer; Den-Mo Tsai (Taiwan); Juan Alonso (Spain); and Utami Munandar (Indonesia).

## 2001-2003

### Barcelona Conference of the World Council for Gifted and Talented Children

President Barbara Clark presided over the 14th World Conference held in Barcelona, Spain July 31-August 4, 2001.



Nazif Ulgen, Maureen Robinson, Edna McMillan, Dorothy Sisk, and Bob Seney

The Queen of Spain accepted the Honorary Presidency of the 14th World Council Conference under the auspices of the European Council and UNESCO. There were representatives from



Barcelona



the Spanish Ministry of Education, Madrid Community Education Counselling, the Education Department of the Cataluña, the Committee on Culture and Education, the Council of Europe, the European Social Charter Secretariat, and Barcelona City Hall. The theme of the conference was *The World of Information: Opportunities and Challenges for the Gifted and Talented*. The conference was organized by the Huerta del Rey Center and the organizing committee was chaired by Juan A. Alonso. The Committee included Sandra Kaplan, Margaret Gosfield, Sheila Madsen, Barbara Clark, Carmen García Colmenares, Yolanda Benito, Emilio Sánchez Miguel, Jesús Moro, David de Prado, José Muñiz, and María Ascensión Fernández. Presenters from more than 50 nations shared their expertise and experiences in more than 300 sessions. Half-day pre-conference workshops provided in-depth discussion with ample time for questions and answers. Yolando Benito (Spain) presented *Giftedness and Associated Disorders*; Barbara Clark (USA) discussed *The Gifted Brain; A User's Guide to Teaching*; Deborah Eyre (UK) delivered *Gifted and Talented Pupils in Inner City Schools*; Lannie Kanevsky (Canada) identified *Possibilities for Learning*; June Maker (USA) shared *DISCOVER: Problem Solving with a Global Perspective*; and Klaus Urban (Germany) spoke on *Creativity: Assessing, Challenging, and Nurturing* (Bob Seney, 2001).

Each day there was a plenary speaker, with Deborah Eye (UK) on *Improving Provision for the Gifted in Ordinary Schools: The Evolutionary Approach*; Todd Siler (USA) on *Tapping the Creative Power of the Gifted and Talented: The Future of Education in a Civil Society*; Lannie Kanevsky (Canada) on *Personalizing the Education of Gifted Individuals*; and Richard Shope (USA), head of educational projects at the Jet Propulsion Laboratories, on *Educational Projects at the Jet Propulsion Laboratories in California*. Two themes were provided: A CyberCorner Strand in which participants engaged in “hands-on” explorations of the internet with the assistance of skilled leaders, and a Parent Strand to assist parents in broadening their knowledge of giftedness, finding answers to frequently asked questions, and discovering how to advocate for gifted students.

Socio-cultural activities included visits to a number of Museums in Barcelona. Participants were welcomed by the prestigious Chorus Vivaldi with various provenances songs, and the Spanish pianist Carlos Goicoechea provided a concert. A Musical Audition prepared children and youth from the International Child Meeting and Youth Forum, the VIII Creative Paints for the XXI Century exposition. A technology panel reported conclusions of the International Child meeting and International Youth Forum.

## **Impact of the World Conference**

The Senate Education Commission asked Dr. Juan Alonso to summarize the conclusions of the 14th World Conference in Barcelona for the education of gifted and talented children and to



analyze the real situation of these students in their education system. Alonso sent his report to the Education Commission, the Parliamentary Assembly of Science and Culture Council of Europe, the Education Ministry, and the Charter Social Secretary of Europe. The following five recommendations were brought forward:

1. Diagnostic evaluation and identification of high-ability students shall be done by qualified professionals with experience with gifted children.
2. Gifted children should be identified at an early age, and identification should include those who are economically disadvantaged.
3. Create psycho-educational material for gifted students and translate inventories such as the Renzulli Scales into Spanish.
4. Provide information concerning gifted characteristics of students to teachers and pediatric professionals to encourage research investigation.
5. Ensure that evaluation and educative intervention consider diversity, including students with exceptionalities (e.g., learning difficulties, ADHD, physical handicaps, and autism) and provide socio-educative interventions to address not only the handicaps but also the gifts (Juan Alonso, personal communication, 2015).

The participants enjoyed an evening of fine Catalan dining at Can Travi Nou, a 17<sup>th</sup> century Catalan farm house. Fifty scholarly contributions provided by selected authors from 30 countries that offered a global vision were compiled in a proceedings publication that included the definition and identification



**Catalonia dinner: Juan Alonso (Spain), Utami Munandar (Indonesia), and Yolanda Benito (Spain)**

of high-ability children, the emotional and social development of gifted and talented children, and educational interventions for gifted children (Juan Alonso, personal communication, Oct. 14, 2015).

Klaus Urban (Germany) was elected President at the 14th WCGTC conference and the Executive Committee members were Janice Leroux (Canada) Vice-President; Maria McCann (Australia) Secretary; Shirley Kokot (South Africa) Treasurer; Sandra Kaplan (USA); Taisir Subhi Yamin (Jordan); and Den-Mo Tsai (Taiwan).

## **2003-2005**

### **Adelaide Conference of the World Council for Gifted and Talented Children**



**Adelaide**

President Klaus Urban welcomed the participants to the 15th Biennial World Conference August 1-5, 2003 in Adelaide, Australia.

The theme of the conference was *Gifted 2003: A Celebration Downunder*. The conference was led by Ann Matison, Chair of the Local Conference Committee, and Maria McCann, Chair of the Academic Program Committee. There were 700 participants, and on the third day of the conference 300 local teachers from the South Australian Special Interest Academic High School Program joined the proceedings. The Vice-Chancellor of Flinders University, Anne Edwards, opened the conference, and she referred to the benefits of meeting together as a world group. The opening session keynote was presented by Adam Spencer, a well-known Australian gifted mathematician and radio broadcaster. Invited Speakers included Katherine Hoekman (Australia), who presented on *The Bridge to Self-determination, Motivation and Middle School*; Barbara

Clark (USA), who spoke about the *Critical issues in Gifted Education Using New Knowledge Now*; Diane Montgomery (UK), who shared her thoughts about *Gifted Learning Disabled Students*; and Sandra Kaplan (USA), Jiannong Shi (China), Graeme Koehne (Australia), James Koehne (Australia) (Matison, 2003).



Other featured speakers included Michael O'Boyle and Miraca Gross from Australia; François Gagné (Canada); June Maker (USA); Franz Mönks (Netherlands); and Tim Dracup (UK). Two days were dedicated to two areas: the Information and Communication Technology Strand, with Tom March from Sydney as a keynote speaker; and the Arts Strand focusing on musically talented youth, with

sessions showcasing their gifts and unique needs. Two musically gifted brothers, James Kohne, the Artistic Director of the Adelaide Symphony Orchestra, and Graeme Kohne, a composer, were keynote speakers in the Arts Strand. Following their presentation, Jake Heggles—a young and very talented American musician who was in Australia for the premier of his opera, *Dead Man Walking*—shared the story behind his achievement. A conference dinner was held at the Port Dock Railway Museum (cf. Ann Matison (2003), A celebration down under, *World Gifted*, 22(2), 6, 8).

Klaus Urban (2003-05) was re-elected president of the WCGTC in Adelaide. The Executive Committee included Den-Mo Tsai (Taiwan) Vice-President; Maria McCann (Australia) Secretary; Shirley Kokot (South Africa) Treasurer; Sandra Kaplan (USA); Taisir Subhi Yamin (Jordan); and Edna McMillan (Canada).

## 2005-2007

### New Orleans Conference of the World Council for Gifted and Talented Children



New Orleans



President Klaus Urban welcomed the participants to the 16th Biennial Conference in New Orleans, Louisiana August 3-7, 2005.

Dr. Robert Seney, Mississippi University for Women, and Dr. Debbie Troxclair, at that time Houston ISD (now at Lamar University, Beaumont, Texas) headed up the conference committee. They were assisted by John Gould (USA), who received the President's Award from Klaus Urban (Germany) for his contribution to the conference during the illness and death of Sheilia Madsen (the Executive Administrator of the Los Angeles Headquarters of the WCGTC), and for providing the support and data the Executive Committee and the President needed. The leadership team was further made up of Paula Christensen, Northwest Louisiana University, Program Chair; and Mark Mishou, Columbus School District, now at Jeffco School District, Denver, Colorado, Treasurer and Administrator. The Association for Gifted and Talented Students of Louisiana played a major role in hosting the conference.

The Conference theme was Celebrating Les Enfants Surdoués du Monde. The New Orleans French theme was maintained throughout the Conference and culminated at the Gala with a *Mardi Gras* themed party, including a parade with stilt-walkers, big heads, and a New Orleans Jazz Band. The Conference Logo was designed by Adam Hunt, an art student at Mississippi University for Women. It was a modern interpretation of the *Mardi Gras* mask in the *Mardi Gras* colors of red, green, and purple. Mr. Hunt said his design was intended not only to reflect the *Mardi Gras* theme of the Conference, but also to represent the masks that many gifted individuals wear to cope with a world that is not always friendly to them. The logo is shown with Robert Seney in his "kilt," President Klaus Urban, and secretary Taisir Yamin.



**Robert Seney (USA), Klaus Urban (Germany), and Taisir Yamin (Jordan)**

One moving highlight was the memorial tribute to A. Harry Passow by Shirley Passow, his wife, a former New Jersey Deputy Attorney General in the United States. The tribute encouraged participants to recall the extensive research and global work of a great leader in the World Council and in gifted education, and his optimistic belief in the great potential of all children.

Another highlight of the keynote speakers was the presentation of Hall Davidson, Director of Education of the Public Broadcasting Station in the United States, who discussed implementing technology to link gifted students around the world in real-time to address key issues through creative problem-solving. Participants explored the French Quarter and visited many of the art museums in New Orleans, including the Ariedante Contemporary Craft Gallery, the Contemporary Arts Center, the Louisiana Children's Museum, the Ogden Museum of Southern Art, and the Audubon Park and Zoological Garden (Eriksson, 2005).



**A. Harry Passow and Shirley Passow**

One event that made the New Orleans Conference memorable was the imminent danger of *Hurricane Katrina*, which eventually made landfall in New Orleans on August 29. One volunteer had a relative working in the Federal Weather Center in New Orleans, so at each General Session a detailed report on the movement and progress of Katrina was reported. Another volunteer's sister, a travel agent, set up a table in the registration area to assist participants in making any necessary changes in travel plans, free of charge—another gesture of true Southern hospitality that marked the New Orleans Conference.

The major thrust of the 2005 New Orleans Conference was celebrating gifted children and highlighting gifted programs in the area. At that time, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Texas had strong



**The Executive Committee of WCGTC: Sandra Kaplan (USA), Edna McMillan (Canada), Taisir Yamin (Jordan), Maria McCann (Australia), Den-Mo Tsai (Taiwan), Shirley Kokot (South Africa) and Deborah Eyre (UK)**

mandates to serve high-ability children, and these states were providing leadership in gifted education across the United States (Robert Seney, personal communication, December 10, 2015).

Den-Mo Tsai (Taiwan) was elected President at the end of the conference, and he is currently President of National Taitung University. The Executive Committee included: Maria McCann (Australia) Vice-president; Taisir Subhi Yamin (Jordan) Secretary; Edna McMillan (Canada) Treasurer; Shirley Kokot (South Africa); Sandra Kaplan (USA); and Deborah Eyre (UK).

## **Headquarters Moves to the University of Winnipeg**

Ken McCluskey, Dean of the Faculty of Education at the University of Winnipeg, and Mike Bergsgaard, Director of Enrichment and Talent Development, invited the World Council to the UW campus, and the Headquarters was relocated to Canada in August of 2005 for a five-year term. The first Executive Administrator, Lisa McLean, worked to expedite the transition.

The next Executive Administrator, Cathrine Froese Klassen, was an Instructor at the institution. In her report (WCGTC, 2009), she described organizing and conducting the 18th Biennial World Conference (to be discussed in detail shortly), which—after extensive negotiating and aggressive cost cutting—netted \$41,597. Substantial office space, additional part-time staff, and a variety



**Ken McCluskey**

of other supports for the Headquarters were provided by Phil Baker, Executive Director of UW's alternative education ACCESS Programs. President Taisir Yamin said, "The World Council was able to thrive at the University of Winnipeg because of the available human resources, the infrastructure, and the financial support provided, which included generous returning of all hosting dues into the World Council account (WCGTC, 2009). Importantly, Cathrine Froese Klassen also created an electronic archive of many historical records of the World Council, notably the *World Gifted* Newsletter.

## 2007-2009

### Warwick Conference of the World Council for Gifted and Talented Children

President Den-Mo Tsai welcomed the participants to the 17th Biennial World Council for Gifted and Talented Children held in Warwick August 5-9, 2007. The conference was organized and supported by all of the major organizations working in England (NACE, NAGC, and the Scottish Network) and led by the NAGTY (National Academy for Gifted and Talented Youth) with Professor Deborah Eyre as the conference organizer. The Minister for School Standards, David Milliband, MP, offered his personal support and the backing of his government department which was very important on many levels both for the conference and for its impact on the future of gifted education in England and elsewhere. The University of Warwick underwrote all costs, enabling the conference team to work to its plan in an atmosphere of security. The World Conference had 871 participants from more than 60 countries, and representation from 5 continents. There were 483 presentations and keynote talks by 12 eminent scholars and practitioners: Deborah Eyre (University of Warwick, England), Joan Freeman (Middlesex University, England), François Gagné (University of Quebec, Canada), John Geake (Oxford Brookes University, UK), Nancy Green (National Association for Gifted Children, USA), Elena Grigorenko (Yale University, USA), Ken McCluskey (University of Winnipeg, Canada), Loyiso Nongxa (Witwatersrand University, South Africa), Jiannong Shi (Chinese Academy of Sciences, China), Kirsi Tirri (University of Helsinki, Finland), Donald Treffinger (Center for Creative Learning, USA), and Chris Yapp (Microsoft, USA). The topics for presentations were themed and included *Assessment and Identification, Characteristics of Gifted Children, Classroom Practice and Effective Pedagogies, Creativity and the Talent Dimension, Formation and Implementation of National Policies, Lived Experiences of Giftedness, Social and Emotional Aspects of Giftedness, Social Disadvantage and Intervention Programs, Teacher and Teacher Training Development, and Underachievement*.



**Professor Deborah Eyre**

The opening ceremony featured a specially choreographed performance of Coventry's Godiva Sisters, celebrating the life of the famous benefactor, Lady Godiva. Participants were invited to choose their own heroines and celebrate eleven people who are known as the Godiva Sisters. Celtic, African, Muslim, Christian, Serbian, Chinese, and Sikh communities chose their heroes and performed dances. All of this was supported by the *Phoenix*, a person in a remarkable bird costume on stilts, who represented the rebirth of Coventry after its destruction by bombing in 1940. As well, a Mayor's reception was held at the Coventry Cathedral in which a 15-year-old gospel singer and a musical group performed.



A parallel program for gifted children was an important part of the conference, and at the end the young people presented their findings to the group. The social program ranged from a visit to Coventry Cathedral to a trip to Shakespeare's birth place at Stratford-on-Avon for the play Richard II.



The conference had considerable impact in the UK and overseas and continues to do so. Indeed, the event had a direct effect on the Hong Kong Academy for the Gifted (HKAGE), WITS University Program for High Potential Youth from Disadvantaged Backgrounds, and in Saudi Arabia with King Abdulaziz and His Companions Foundation for the Gifted. Individual schools and organizations were buoyed by the conference in the UK and it helped them to keep moving forward (Eyre, 2015).

Den-Mo Tsai (Taiwan) was re-elected as president of the WCGTC during the Warwick conference and his Executive Committee included Deborah Eyre (United Kingdom) Vice-President; Taisir Subhi Yamin (Jordan) Secretary; Edna McMillan (Canada) Treasurer; Sandra Kaplan (USA); Leslie Graves (Ireland); and Ngarmmars Kasemset (Thailand).



Den-Mo Tsai

## 2009-2011

### Vancouver Conference of the World Council for Gifted and Talented Children

President Den-Mo Tsai presided at the 18th Biennial WCGTC conference August 3-7, 2009 in Vancouver, Canada. The conference theme was *Promoting the Dream: Visions for the Future*. Cathrine Froesse Klassen, Executive Administrator of the WCGTC, served as the Conference Committee Chairperson; Stephen Klassen as the Registration Chairperson; and Edna McMillan



**Cathrine Froese-Klassen**

as the Program Chairperson. The Opening Ceremony featured 8-year-old Hanah McKinlely Brandon singing the Canadian national anthem, *O Canada*, followed by 12-year-old Washington state flautist Zachary Kellogg accompanied by his father, a world-class violinist. Next, Rosemary Stemens—a violinist extraordinaire from Vancouver—performed, accompanied by Victoria Gomon from Uzbekistan on the piano. To the surprise and amazement of the audience, Rosemary and Victoria—never having played together—improvised two selections. This presentation was followed by The Le-La-La Dancers from Vancouver Island, led by George Taylor, who provided a glimpse into the culture of the Kwakwaka'wakw people. The opening session was followed by a reception hosted by Pearson Inc. and a number of exhibitors. *Jamnation*, a group of student instrumentalists from the University of British Columbia, jazzed up the evening.

The next day, pre-conference workshops were provided by Ken McCluskey (Canada) on ADHD, Don Treffinger (USA) on Creative Problem Solving, Lynn Berresford and Rose Blackett (New Zealand) on Assessment, and Daria Danylchuck (Canada) on the Transition Program at the University of British Columbia. The opening session featured greetings from Geoff Meggs, Deputy Mayor of Vancouver, and Dean Ken McCluskey of the University of Winnipeg. Keynotes during the conference included a joint presentation by McCluskey and Treffinger on *Empowering Students through Creative Problem Solving and Talent Development*; Joe Renzulli (USA) on *The Empire Strikes Back: Redefining the Role of Gifted Education for the Twenty-First Century*; Jack Naglieri (USA) on *Identification of Gifted Children Using Nonverbal Ability Tests*; Lannie Kanevsky (Canada) on *Dreams of Development: The Process of Becoming* (Applying Vygotsky's Theory of Proximal Development to differentiating learning experiences for gifted students); and Robert Bateman, a Canadian artist and naturalist, on *Kids, Nature, and the Future* (emphasizing the importance of exposing children to the natural world). In addition, 380 presentations were provided on a wide range of topics in gifted education. With Eleoussa Polyzoi, Cathrine Froese Klassen published (hard copy) and distributed (CD format) the 2007 Conference Proceedings, *Reaching our Gifted and Talented Children: Global Initiatives*, to all participants and members.

A Youth Summit directed by Pegi Futanna-McIntosh provided a full series of outstanding activities for young people ages 15 to 18. The students examined their future and how they could make a difference in their communities and in the world. The overarching theme for the Youth Summit was *Promoting the Dream*, and the specific goal was to assist the students in finding their passion and creating action plans to take back to their home communities. They explored topics such as sustainability, poverty, social justice, global community, the arts, writing, and problem solving.

Simon Jackson who, at age 15, began a quest to make a difference in the Canadian wilderness, shared his project about protecting the habitat of North American's rarest bear—the White Kermode or Spirit Bear. His life story was the basis of a 2005 Canadian film, *The Simon Jackson Story*. Simon, who founded the Spirit Bear Coalition, was an inspiration to the students, motivating them to explore visions for the future.

Another conference highlight was a presentation by an NBC Vice-President, Dean McFlicker, a gifted dancer, choreographer, producer, and director who shared seven creatively composed and illustrated lessons he learned in Hollywood and demonstrated how these lessons could be applied to the nurturing and educating of gifted and talented children. The Closing Ceremony included President Den Mo Tsai presenting the President's Award to Cathrine Froese Klassen (the Conference Chairperson) and Stephen Klassen (the Registration Chairperson), both from the University of Winnipeg. The conscientious effort of the organizing committee to include gifted children in the conference was evident at the closing when 10-year-old Shane McKinley Brandon presented her view on how to teach a child perfectly and Leland Lee—an 18-year-old autistic artist and musician—was recognized for his art exhibit *Of Moose and Men*, which was on display throughout the conference.

A special evening activity was provided for 200 of the attendees to cruise the Vancouver harbor as the sunset over the water. They enjoyed a gala dinner and opportunities to interact with colleagues from around the world.

Taisir Subhi Yamin (Jordan) was elected president of the WCGTC at the end of the conference, and his Executive Committee included Edna McMillan (Canada) Vice-President; Leslie Graves (Ireland) Secretary; Julia Link Roberts (United States) Treasurer; Klaus Urban (Germany); Leonie Kronborg (Australia); and Ngarmmars Kasemset (Thailand).

## **2011-2013**

### **Prague Conference of the World Council for Gifted and Talented Children**

The President of the World Council, Taisir Subhi Yamin, welcomed the participants to the 19th World Conference held in Prague in the Czech Republic August 8-12, 2012. The theme was *Making a World of Difference for Gifted Children*. The Chair of the local organizing committee was Eva Vondrakova, and Zina Peckova was Executive Director of Congress Business Travel. The conference was sponsored by the Czech-Moravian Psychological Society (CMPS) and the Pearson Publishing Company. Other partners included the Association for Talent and Giftedness, the Czech Technical University in Prague, and Masaryk University. Educators, parents, and students from 57 countries attended the conference. With a total of 450 participants and 330 sessions

on innovative educational practices, strategies, and theories to choose from, networking opportunities abounded.



**Eva Vondrakova and  
Zina Peckova**

There were a large number of keynote addresses on relevant topics delivered by experts in the field: Nicholas Colangelo (University of Iowa, USA) – *Academic Acceleration: The International Intervention of the Future*; Ken McCluskey (University of Winnipeg, Canada) – *Creating Creative Cooperative Environments Creatively and Cooperatively*; Gert Mittring and Martina Lange-Blank (Psychology Diagnostic Center, Germany) – *Challenging the Ability of Solving Math Problems: The German Championship*; Franz Mönks (Radboud University Nijmegen, The Netherlands) – *Gifted Education Worldwide: Retrospect and Prospect*; Jack Naglieri (University of Virginia, USA) – *Traditional*

*IQ: 100 Years of Misconception and its Influence on Gifted Education*; Maureen Neihart (National Institute of Education, Singapore) – *The Revised Profiles of the Gifted: A Research Based Approach*; Dorothy Sisk (Lamar University, USA) – *Developing Leadership Capacity in Gifted Students for the Present and the Future*; and Moshe Zeidner (University of Haifa, Israel) – *Are Cognitively Gifted Students Emotionally Intelligent? Some Recent Data and Conclusions*.



**First row: Leslie Graves (Ireland), Edna McMillan (Canada), Klaus Urban (Germany).**

**Second row: Dorothy Sisk (USA) and Bob Seney (USA)**



**Dorothy Sisk (USA)  
and Edna McMillan (Canada)**

Social activities included a stroll on Charles Bridge that presented a fine view of Prague Castle. Prague is classified as a Global City and participants were able to visit St. Vitus Cathedral, the medieval Astronomical Clock, and many of the Gothic churches offering concerts in the evening (Eva Vondrakova, personal communication, Nov. 23, 2015).

President Taisir Yamin recognized the contribution of Zina Peckova in ensuring the success of the event in Prague. Both of these leaders were pleased with the conference.





**Zina Peckova and Taisir Yamin**  
(WCGTC, 2009).

Taisir Subhi Yamin said in his President's message, "Investment in gifted education becomes a must for all nations, but such investment requires well-developed programs that concentrate on promoting productive thinking skills, emphasize future problem solving, employ effective differentiation processes, provide high-quality provisions, administer different types of evaluation, and build self-confidence. ... Gifted education is, indeed, the way of the future and requires sufficient resources"

**Given the importance of human capital and investment in Gifted, Talented, and Creative Learning, Gifted education must be scientific, systematic, coherent, and expect accountability for student programs.**

**-Taisir Subhi Yamin**

## **International Centre for Innovation in Education (ICIE)**

A particular debt is owed to the International Centre for Innovation in Education (ICIE) for its support in ensuring that the journal *Gifted and Talented International* (GTI) was available to the members of the World Council. ICIE covered all the expenses, including editing and distributing the journal, for eight years. This generosity on the part of ICIE is a testament to the leadership of Taisir Subhi Yamin, who served both as President of the WCGTC and Editor-in-Chief of the journal.

Taisir's innovation as editor is reflected in his securing a provocative article by Hisham Ghassib (2010), followed by 22 critiques and responses to that piece in Volume 25(1). The responses offered thought-provoking contributions for the readers of *GTI* to ponder and consider for future research. This innovative approach was displayed again in Volume 27(1), featuring a target article by Roland Persson, entitled *Cultural Variation and Dominance in a Globalized Knowledge-Economy: Towards Culture-Sensitive Research Paradigm in the Science of Giftedness*. There were 18 responses to the Persson piece that provided an exciting forum for interaction. Still another target article by Joan Freeman (2012), *A Quality of Giftedness*, appeared with 12 responses in Volume 27(2). At that time, Taisir aptly pointed out that a quality of giftedness is the vital ingredient in world-class achievement. During his time as Editor-in-Chief of *GTI*, Taisir set a high standard of disseminating information about giftedness through our worldwide network of WCGTC members.

## Headquarters Moves to Kentucky

The Headquarters moved to Western Kentucky University (WKU) in Bowling Green, Kentucky on Jan 1, 2011. The office is located in Gary A. Ransdell Hall, home of the College of Education and Behavioral Sciences. Tracy Cummings Harkins was appointed Executive Administrator, and served until 2015. She is currently Coordinator for College Counseling at The Gatton Academy of Mathematics and Science in Kentucky. WKU President Gary Ransdell said, “It is an honor for WKU to become the host institution for the World Council” (WCGTC, 20011). The move could never have happened without the negotiating skill of Julia Link Roberts, who obtained attractive space for Headquarters at WKU, along with significant gifts from important donors. The WCGTC is particularly indebted to Dixie and Pete Mahurin for their generosity, interest, and ongoing support.



**Tracy Harkins**



**Gary A. Ransdell Hall**

Members of the Executive Committee visited the international Headquarters at WKU in July 2012. Those in attendance included Umit Davasligil, Leslie Graves, Tracy Harkins, Leonie Kronborg, Ken McCluskey, Julia Roberts, and Klaus Urban. The visit gave the EC the opportunity to conduct the business of the organization, including discussions of the World Conference. A highlight of the visit was a dinner at the Baker Arboretum and Downing Museum hosted by Jerry Baker. The visit was made possible by Pete and Dixie Mahurin. Dixie and Dr. Gary Ransdell, President of WKU, joined the EC for the dinner at the Downing Museum (World Gifted, 2012).



## 2013-2015

### Louisville Conference of the World Council for Gifted and Talented Children

During August 10-14, 2013, 550 people from 41 countries traveled to Louisville, Kentucky for the 20th Biennial World Conference held at the Galt House. The Organizing Committee included Taisir Subhi Yamin (Jordan), President; Ken McCluskey (Canada), Vice President; Klaus Urban (Germany), Secretary; Julia Link Roberts (USA), Treasurer; Leonie Kronborg (Australia); Leslie Graves (Ireland); and Ümit Davasligil (Turkey). The theme, *Celebrating Giftedness and Creativity*, was evident throughout the conference. Ten preconference sessions were given on August 10 and included Taisir Subhi Yamin (*Renzulli Learning System*); Leslie Graves (*"On a Shoestring" – Providing for Potential through PLN's and Creative Collaboration*); Leonie Kronborg (*Developing Optimal Learning Environments for Highly Able and High Achieving Students*); Ken McCluskey (*Lost Prizes: Recognizing and Nurturing the Talent of At-Risk Students*); Julia Roberts (*Talent Development: The Responsibility for All Educators*); Klaus Urban (*Creativity: Assessing, Challenging, Nurturing*); Dorothy Sisk (*Spiritual Intelligence: Developing Higher Consciousness*); Maud Besançon (*Evaluation of Potential Creativity (EPoC)*); Sylvia Rimm (*Marching to the Beat of a Different Drummer: The Creative Underachiever*); and June Maker (*Engaging Students in Real Problem Solving: A Hands-On Workshop*).

The opening ceremony began with the "call to the races" by the bugler which opens the Kentucky Derby and WKU students, led by Dr. Wayne Pope, presented several musical performances tracing the history of American music. The first keynote address was given by Joseph Renzulli (USA) on *Intelligences Outside the Normal Curve: Factors that Contribute to the Creation of Social Capital and Leadership Skills in Young People and Adults*. Eight other keynote



speakers addressed a variety of important topics: Todd Lubart (France) on *A Blueprint for Creative Educational Systems*; Linda Silverman (USA) on *Breakthroughs in Assessment of the Gifted*; Sally Reis (USA) on *Changing Paths: Developing Creativity and Creative Minds as a Primary Goal of Gifted Education*; Roland Persson (Sweden) on *Who Decides What Gifted Is? On the Dilemma of Researching and Educating the Gifted Mind in the Light of Culture Variation, Politics, Ambition and Scientific Dogma*; Tracey Riley (New Zealand) on *Number 8 Wire: Enhancing Creativity Through Competitions*; Christian Fischer (Germany) on *How to Promote Learning Strategies in Gifted Education Via Adaptive Teacher Training*; June Maker (USA) on *Real Engagement in Active Problem Solving (REAPS): Practical Ideas and Research Results*; and Megan-Foley Nicpon (USA) on *What is Exceptional About Twice-Exceptionality?*

### Edna McMillan Scholarship Awards

The recipients of the Edna McMillan Scholarship Awards were Mary St. George (New Zealand) and Jen Merrill (USA). Dorothy Sisk (USA), who is funding the scholarships, is shown with Leslie Graves (Ireland) and the recipients.



Dorothy Sisk (USA), Leslie Graves (Ireland), Jen Merrill (USA), and Mary St. George (New Zealand)

Several downtown museums were visited by participants, including the Kentucky Science Center with the interactive *The World We Create* “hands-on” exhibit, the Louisville Slugger Museum and factory that manufactures the famous wooden baseball bat, the Frasier International History Museum, and the Muhammad Ali Center highlighting the Louisville native’s life and boxing career.

Leslie Graves was elected as the President of the WCGTC and her Executive Committee included Ken McCluskey (Canada) Vice-President; Humphrey Oborah (Kenya) Secretary; Julia Link Roberts (USA) Treasurer; Umit Davasligil (Turkey); Denise Fleith (Brazil); and Leonie Kronborg (Australia).

The current Executive Administrator is Tyler Clark, who joined the WCGTC in May 2015. He graduated in the inaugural class of The Gatton Academy of Mathematics and Science and obtained a BA in Mathematics from the Honors College at Western Kentucky University, an MS in Mathematics from WKU, and an MS in Mathematics from the University of Central Florida. When the WCGTC Headquarters relocated to Bowling Green in 2011, Tyler assisted with the transition phase as part of his duties as Graduate Assistant at The Center for Gifted Studies at WKU. He also



Tyler Clark (USA)



served on the Local Conference Committee for the 2013 World Conference in Louisville.

A new logo for the WCGTC was created by Tom Foster, a graphic designer from Bowling Green, KY. This new design represented the need for creative collaboration with people around the globe to provide for the needs of gifted young people.



## 2015-2016

### Odense Conference of the World Council for Gifted and Talented Children



Odense, Denmark

Leslie Graves, the President of WCGTC, welcomed participants to the 21st World Conference held in Odense, Denmark August 10-14, 2015.

The theme was *Educating Gifted and Talented Children: Turning Research into Practice*. Tina Refning was the Conference Manager and was assisted by Susanne Hoff-Clausen (vice-manager) as well as Ole Kyed and Pia Ryding. The committee and the Executive Administrator of the WCGTC,



Ole Kyed (Denmark)

Tyler Clark, are pictured—with the statue of Hans Christian Andersen—in front of the Radisson Blu Hotel, the conference site.

A Parent's Day was held prior to the opening session of the conference, with Shirley Kokot (South Africa) presenting *Your Child is Gifted: Now What?* She was followed by Ole Kyed (Denmark) sharing *What Does it Mean to be Gifted in a Danish*

*Culture?* and Ken, Andrea, and Amber McCluskey (Canada) discussing *ADHD: Disability, Gift, or Just Energy?*

These presentations were followed by focus groups by Julia Link Roberts (USA) - *Advocacy and Educational Strategy*; Dorothy Sisk (USA) - *Perfectionism*; Ole Kyed (Denmark) - *Gifted and Talented Children: The Basics*; and Shirley Kokot (South Africa) and Leslie Graves (Ireland) - *Coping with Dual Exceptionalities*. President Leslie Graves closed the Parent Day with *Three Generations of Giftedness—No Bed of Roses*.



Susanne Hoff-Clausen (Denmark), Tina Refning (Denmark), Tyler Clark (USA), and Leslie Graves (Ireland) in the front row and Brian Truelsen (Denmark), and Pia Ryding (Denmark) in the second row.

The following day there were 12 pre-conference sessions: Margaret Sutherland (Scotland) - *Gifted and Talented in Early Years: Practical Activities for Children Aged 3 to 6*; Shirley Kokot (South Africa) - *Unraveling the Causes of Learning Difficulties in the Twice-Exceptional Child*; Pernille Buch-Romer (Denmark) - *Creating a School Concept with Clear Academic and Educational Guidelines for Gifted Children*;



Eunice Alencar (Brazil) - *Nurturing and Developing Spiritual Intelligence: A Practical Guide in Helping Gifted Students Find Meaning in their Lives and Education*; Barbara Kerr (USA) - *Exploring Creative Lives: International Coaching for Creative Adolescents*; Ann Robinson (USA) - *Differentiation with Biography: Talent Development through Nonfiction Reading*; Sylvia Rimm (USA) - *Why Bright Kids Get Poor Grades*; and Eunice Alencar and Denise Fleith (Brazil) presented *How to Foster Students' Creativity in the Classroom: Techniques and Strategies*.

There were 9 keynotes: Shirley Kokot (South Africa) - *Planting a Garden* (a historical overview of experiences in starting a South African school for gifted children); Henry Tirri (Finland) - *The Shift: Giftedness in the 21st Century*; Margaret Southerland (Scotland) - *A Collaborative Approach to Building the Bridges Between Research and Practice*; Sylvia Rimm (USA) - *From Underachievement to Wondrous Achievement: Practical Strategies for Motivating Giftedness*; Eunice Alencar (Brazil)

- *Creativity in the School Setting: Challenges, Pathways, and Strategies of Assessment*; Ching-Chih Kuo (Taiwan) - *Gifted Brains: Studies of Gender Differences*; Ann Robinson (USA) - *What Makes a Practice “Best”? Evidence-Based Recommendations in Gifted Education*; Jonathan Plucker (USA) - *Critical Issues and Practices in Gifted Education: What the Research Says*; and Leonie Kronborg (Australia) - *Teaching Teachers to Teach the Gifted: What Have I Learned and What do Teachers Need to Know?* In addition,



**Shirley Kokot (South Africa)**

there were invited speakers, including Kristoffer Henriksen (Denmark), who discussed the *Ecology of Talent Development in Sport*; Hans Henrik Knoop (Denmark), who spoke about *Positive Psychology in Education: How Fairness, Well-Being, and Performance are Mutually Depending Aspects of Future Education*; and Soren Ragad (Denmark), the Director of Digital Experience, LEGO Education, presented on *Bridging Physical and Digital: Enabling Every Student to Succeed*.

There were 17 categories of presentations: Advocating for the Gifted; Assessment, Screening, and Identification; Creativity Research, Practice, and Future Trends; Curriculum and Classroom Practices; Developing Future Leaders; Educational Technology; Giftedness Theory, Research, Practice, and Future Trends; Guidance and Counseling; Homeschooling, Parenting, and Parent Matters; Innovation Education; Moral Education, Values, and Social Consciousness; Parenting Globally for Success; Social Emotional Needs of the Gifted, Creative, and Talented; Acceleration; Twice-Exceptional; Underachievers; and Other (Gifted Adults and Music). There were 43 poster presentations. The global community of participants at the 21st World Conference included scholars from 45 nations.



**Leslie Graves, President WCGTC**

Approval was given for a new editorial team—working with Routledge, part of the Taylor & Francis Group—to assume responsibility and direction for *Gifted and Talented International*. Barbara Kerr (University of Kansas, USA) and Leonie Kronborg (Monash University, Australia) served as Co-Editors for the December issue, 2015. Currently, Leonie Kronborg and Franzis Preckel (University of Trier, Germany) are the Co-Editors and the Associate Editors are Megan Foley-Nicpon (The University of Iowa, USA), Barbara



Kerr, June Maker (University of Arizona, USA), Nielsen Pereira (Purdue University, USA), and Ann Robinson (University of Arkansas at Little Rock, USA).

## Scholarships and Awards

President Leslie Graves recognized the two Edna McMillan Scholarship recipients sponsored by Dorothy Sisk and each participant shared a presentation; June Maker received the A. Harry Passow Award, and Ken McCluskey, WCGTC Vice-President (Canada), received the Distinguished Service Award.

The Presidential Address of Leslie Graves emphasized building on positive actions. She said, “‘Keeping the spark’ alive in gifted and talented kid’s eyes—this should be our intent. May we remember this always in our search for support and



**Lucia Riet (Estonia), Dorothy Sisk (USA), Rebecca Howell (UK), and Leslie Graves (Ireland)**



**June Maker (USA) and Leslie Graves (Ireland)**

meaning. As a Global Gifted Community, we are painting a great and passionate portrait. May our pallet continue to always allow equal importance to the colors of parents and children, international and diverse populations, and to honoring the wisdom of age and difference.”

Participants were able to visit the house of Hans Christian Andersen and the Museum, the Odense Zoo, Legoland, Egeskov Castle, and a flower festival. As well, they experienced a gala dinner and a night of celebration at *Sortebro Kro*, including a cruise down one of the canals.

In the wake of the WCGTC World Conference 2015 in Odense, the World Gifted Conference Committee Denmark hopes to fathom and facilitate the immense amount of information presented and gathered at the event, and establish a Knowledge Center on Gifted Education and the Well-Being of Families and Children with High Abilities. The Center would focus on nurturing potential and inspiring excellence through information exchange, education, and networking for educators, parents, and children.



**Ken McCluskey (Canada) and Leslie Graves (Ireland)**





Sortebro Kor

## 2016-2017

### Sydney Conference of the World Council for Gifted and Talented Children

The 22<sup>nd</sup> World Conference is to be held in Sydney, Australia on the beautiful campus of the University of New South Wales (UNSW) July 20-23, 2017. The event will be hosted by the UNSW School of Education, a world-leader in pioneering and innovative work in gifted education. The main UNSW campus is located seven miles from the center of Sydney, a city surrounded by beaches. The energetic Central Business district is positioned on breathtaking Sydney Harbor, meaning a water view is never far away.



This Biennial World Conference will provide an opportunity for researchers, practitioners, parents, and other stakeholders to gather from around the globe to discuss the vital matters, issues, and concerns that currently impact the field of gifted education in general and gifted and talented children specifically. The WCGTC and Local Conference Committee are excited to welcome many familiar and new faces to Sydney. It will be a wonderful time to network, discuss a variety of topics, and learn from one another. This publication on the *History of the World Council for Gifted and Talented Children* will be presented to conference participants.

The 2017 World Conference theme is Global Perspectives in Gifted education. The event will feature the following important strands:

- Giftedness and Talent: Models, Research, and Practice

- Creativity, Research, and Practice
- Identification: Models, Instruments, and Approaches
- Social and Emotional Needs
- Twice-Exceptional Learners
- Guidance and Counseling
- Diversity in Giftedness
- Parenting or Care Giving
- Schooling Alternatives for the Gifted and Talented
- Advocacy: National, State, Regional, and Local
- Leadership Development
- Programming, Curriculum, and Pedagogy
- Educational Technology

Technological advances, including the internet, have accelerated globalization; however, the 22nd World Conference will provide the power and value of face-to-face networking and relationship-building with participants worldwide. President Leslie Graves has said, “Knowing the long history of gifted education in Australia, it surely will be a very informative and worthwhile conference to attend.”



**Sydney Opera House and Sydney Harbor**

The World Conference in Sydney will feature eight preconference workshops: Seon-Young Lee (South Korea) – *Nurturing Future Creative Leaders in the Classroom*; Leonie Kronborg (Australia) – *Professional Learning for Teachers who Motivate and Support Diverse Gifted and Highly Able Students for Talent Development: Research on What They Know and What Works in Their Teaching*; Margaret Sutherland (Scotland) – *Using What Young Children Already Know to Excite,*

*Challenge and Develop Learners*; Karen Rogers (USA) – *Brushing UP Your Program of Services for Gifted and Talented Learners: What Does it Take to Ignite the “Ideal” Program?*; Dorothy Sisk (USA) and Michele Kane (USA) – *Making a Difference in Gifted Students’ Lives: The Art and Science of Mindfulness*; Klaus Urban (Germany) – *Creativity: Assessing, Challenging, Nurturing*; Sue Prior (Hong Kong) – *Global Perspectives in Gifted Education: Does  $2E=3C^2$ ?*; and Julia Link Roberts (USA) – *Talent Development: Stages, Steps, and Strategies*.

The World Conference will also feature seven keynote presentations including: Seon-Young Lee (South Korea) – *Talent Dissemination: A Path Leading into the Future GT Education*; Jane Piirto (USA) – *Organic Creativity in the Classroom: Teaching to Intuition in Academics and in the Arts*; Karen Rogers – *Worth the Effort: Finding and Supporting Twice Exceptional Learners in Schools*; Mark Scott (Australia); Kirsi Tirri (Finland) – *Holistic Perspectives on Gifted Education for the 21st Century*; Helen Watt (Australia) – *Harnessing Girls’ and Women’s Talent Potentials in STEM Domains*; and Jim Watters (Australia) – *Contextualising Learning in STEM: A Realistic Pathway for Teachers of Gifted Students*.

Denise Fleith moved into the President position in early 2017 when Leslie Graves resigned due to personal reasons. Julia Link Roberts was elected as President with her term beginning at the conclusion of the World Conference in Sydney. Denise Fleith (Brazil), Leonie Kronborg (Australia), Sue Prior (Hong Kong), and Tracy Riley (New Zealand) were elected onto the Executive Committee.

## **Continuing Mission**

The World Council for Gifted and Talented Children continues to focus international attention on high-ability young people in order to ensure the realization of their valuable potential for the benefit of humankind. This overarching objective established by the Executive Committee of the WCGTC in 1977 continues to guide the World Council in the 21st century.

It is no small accomplishment for the World Council to have continued to work toward its objective over the years. The organization has thrived because of the vision and energy of its founders and their successors in leadership roles as Presidents and Executive Committee members. The WCGTC has benefited from the work of dedicated and hard-working individuals, from support from elected Delegates worldwide, from volunteers and participants who plan and implement the biennial conferences, from generous donors and host institutions, and from its members across the globe.

Educators are faced with the growing challenge of how to prepare students from diverse backgrounds to live and thrive in a rapidly changing society. These culturally and linguistically diverse students, many with high potential, need engaging and effective classroom instruction

and positive school environments to learn and to reach their potential. Children are our future and they deserve a strong educational investment of time, energy, and vision. The challenge for the WCGTC is to help educators develop cultural competence, to focus on individual learning, and to have high expectations for all students, particularly for our gifted and talented children and youth. This original 1977 vision of the World Council for Gifted and Talented Children continues to guide the organization today, as we work together to identify and nurture gifts and talents worldwide.

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## Author

Dorothy A. Sisk, Ph.D., holds an endowed chair in education of gifted students at Lamar University in Beaumont, Texas. Dr. Sisk is an international consultant focusing on leadership and creativity development. She was a professor at the University of South Florida, coordinating programs for training teachers of the gifted, and the former director of the U.S. Office of Gifted and Talented in Washington, DC. Dr. Sisk currently directs the C. W. Conn Gifted Child Center at Lamar University, and teaches

the courses for endorsement in gifted education. She received the Distinguished Leaders Award from the Creative Education Foundation (CEF) in 1989, the Distinguished Service Award from the National Association for Gifted Children (NAGC) in 1983 and 1994, the Creative Lifetime Award from CEF in 1994, and the Hall of Fame Award of CEF in 2005. Dr. Sisk served as one of the founders and first president of the American Creativity Association and president of The Association for Gifted and Talented (TAG), the Florida Association for Gifted, and the World Council for Gifted and Talented Children (WCGTC), where she was executive administrator and editor of *Gifted International* from 1980-1993. She has conducted training sessions throughout the United States and internationally.

Dr. Sisk is author of *Creative Teaching of the Gifted* and *Making Great Kids Greater*; co-author with Doris Shallcross of *Leadership: Making Things Happen*; *The Growing Person*; and *Intuition: An Inner Way of Knowing*; co-author with E. Paul Torrance of *Gifted Children in the Regular Classroom* and *Spiritual Intelligence: Developing Higher Level Consciousness*; co-author with Susan Israel and Cathy Block of *Collaborative Literacy: Using Gifted Strategies to Enrich Learning for Every Student*; co-author with Hava Vidergor of *Enhancing the Gift of Leadership: Innovative Programs for All Grade Levels*; and editor of *Accelerating and Extending Literacy for Diverse Students*. In addition, she has contributed numerous articles and chapters in books on gifted education.

	1975-1977	1977-1979	1979-1981	1981-1983	1983-1985
President	Dan Bitan (IL)	Iraj Broomand (IR) ('77) Dorothy Sisk (US) ('78)	Henry Collis (UK)	James Gallagher (US)	James Gallagher (US)
Vice-President	Henry Collis (UK) Dorothy Sisk (US) Elizabeth Neuman (US) ('76) Alexis DuPont DeBie (US)	Dorothy Sisk (US) ('78) Henry Collin (UK) - Vice-Chair	Dorothy Sisk (US)	Dan Bitan (IL)	Dan Bitan (IL)
Secretary		Henry Collis (UK)	Bruce M. Shore (CA)	Bruce M. Shore (CA)	Elena Konstat (MX)
Treasurer		Dan Bitan (IL)	Ron Day (AU)	Ron Day (AU)	Aurora Roldan (PH)
Member-at-Large		Marie Schmidt (VE)	Elena Konstat (MX)	Elena Konstat (MX)	Klaus Urban (DE)
Member-at-Large		Levcho Zdravchev (BG)	Klaus Urban (DE)	Klaus Urban (DE)	Elizabeth Adesokan (NG)
Member-at-Large		Warren Lett (AU)	Dan Bitan (IL)	Jean-Charles Terrassier (FR)	Jean-Charles Terrassier (FR)
Executive Administrator	(None)	(None)	Milton Gold (US) (A. Harry Passow - Honorary Director)	Milton Gold (US)	Dorothy Sisk (US) (Executive Secretary)
Headquarters Location (Secretariat)	(None)	(None)	Teachers College, Columbia University, NY	Teachers College, Columbia University, NY	University of South Florida, Tampa
Journal Editor	(None)	Levcho Zdravchev (GATE)		Dorothy Sisk ( <i>Gifted International</i> )	Dorothy Sisk
Newsletter Editor	(None)	(None)	Milton Gold; Dorothy Sisk - 1980 ( <i>World Gifted</i> )	Milton Gold (US)	Milton Gold
Executive Meetings (Non-Conference)	(None)		New York, Mar 5-8, 1980; Montreal, October 23-26, 1980	New York, Jan 20, 1982; Manila, May 25-28, 1982	
Conference	London	San Francisco	Jerusalem	Montreal	Manila



	1985-1987	1987-1989	1989-1991	1991-1993	1993-1995
President	A. Harry Passow (US)	A. Harry Passow (US)	Norah Maier (CA)	Norah Maier (CA)	Wu-Tien Wu (TW)
Vice-President	Klaus Urban (DE)	Norah Maier (CA)	Franz Mönks (NL)	Franz Mönks (NL) (resigned July '93) Wu-Tien Wu (TW)	Barbara Clark (US)
Secretary	Elena Konstat (MX)	(not designated)	(not designated)	Maureen Robinson (AU) (acting)	Maureen Robinson (AU)
Treasurer	Aurora Roldan (PH)	(not designated)	(not designated)	Len Finkelstein (US) (acting)	Janice Leroux (CA)
Member-at-Large	Elizabeth Adesokan (NG)	Aurora Roldan (PH) Elena Konstat (MX) Ken Imison (AU) Elizabeth Adesokan (NG)	Len Finkelstein (US) Tom Marjoram (UK) Wu-Tien Wu (TW) Aurora Roldan (PH) Belle Wallace (UK)	David George (UK)	David George (UK)
Member-at-Large	Ken Imison (AU)			Wu-Tien Wu (TW)	Barbara Mayerhofer-Grillmayr (AT)
Member-at-Large	Norah Maier (CA)			Cedric Taylor (ZA)	Cedric Taylor (ZA)
Executive Administrator	Dorothy Sisk (US) (Executive Secretary)	Doroth Sisk (US) (Executive Administrator)	Doroth Sisk (US) (Executive Administrator)	Dorothy Sisk (US)	Jan Adams-Byers (US) (Membership Secretary)
Headquarters Location (Secretariat)	University of South Florida, Tampa	Lamar University, Beaumont, Texas	Lamar University, Beaumont, Texas	Lamar University, Beaumont, Texas	Purdue University, West Lafayette, Indiana
Journal Editor	Dorothy Sisk	Doroth Sisk	Doroth Sisk	Doroth Sisk	John Feldhusen ( <i>Gifted and Talented International</i> )
Newsletter Editor	Hilda Rosselli	Hilda Rosselli	Hilda Rosselli (until 1990)	(None)	John Feldhusen (Jan '93); 2 issues in '93, 3 issues in '94, and 1 issue in '95
Executive Meetings (Non-Conference)	Salt Lake City, mid-Aug 1986	Australia, Early July, 1988	Vienna Summit, Oct 30-31, 1990	Toronto, May 6, 1992; Taipei, July 22, 23, 27, 28, 1992; Teleconference February 7 and May 1993	Atlanta, Nov 6-7, 1993; Hong Kong, Jul 30; Korea Jul 31-Aug 4, 1994
Conference	Hamburg	Salt Lake City	Sydney	The Hague	Toronto

	1995-1997	1997-1999	1999-2001	2001-2003	2003-2005
President	Wu-Tien Wu (TW)	Barbara Clark (US)	Barbara Clark (US)	Klaus Urban (DE)	Klaus Urban (DE)
Vice-President	Barbara Clark (US)	Klaus Urban (DE)	Klaus Urban (DE)	Janice Leroux (CA)	Den-Mo Tsai (TW)
Secretary	Barbara Mayerhofer-Grillmayr (AT)	Shirley Kokot (ZA)	Shirley Kokot (ZA)	Maria McCann (AU)	Maria McCann (AU)
Treasurer	Janice Leroux (CA)	Janice Leroux (CA)	Janice Leroux (CA)	Shirley Kokot (ZA)	Shirley Kokot (ZA)
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Member-at-Large	Klaus Urban (DE)	Utami Munandar (ID)	Utami Munandar (ID)	Taisir Subhi Yamin (JO)	Edna McMillan (CA)
Member-at-Large	Cedric Taylor (ZA)	Juan Alonso (ES)	Juan Alonso (ES)	Den-Mo Tsai (TW)	Taisir Subhi Yamin (JO)
Executive Administrator	Nicholas Colangelo (US)	Nicholas Colangelo (US) 1998; Sheila Madsen (US) 1999	Sheila Madsen (US)	Sheila Madsen (US)	Sheila Madsen (US)
Headquarters Location (Secretariat)	Belin Blank Center, University of Iowa, Iowa City	Northridge California (Consulting Company)	Northridge California (Consulting Company)	Northridge California (Consulting Company)	Northridge California (Consulting Company)
Journal Editor	John Felhusen ('96 and first issue of '97) Joyce VanTassel-Baska Second issue of '97	Joyce VanTassel-Baska	Joyce VanTassel-Baska	Joyce VanTassel-Baska	Joyce VanTassel-Baska 3 issues; Maria McCann 1 issue in 2005
Newsletter Editor	(None)	None in 1997; Barbara Clark and Sheila Madsen; Sally Todd (Guest Editor)	Barbara Clark and Sheila Madsen	Barbara Clark	Barbara Clark
Executive Meetings (Non-Conference)	Tampa Nov 10-12, 1995; Vienna Oct 19-22, 1996	Brasilia, Aug 25-26, 1998			
Conference	Hong Kong	Seattle	Istanbul	Barcelona	Adelaide

	2005-2007	2007-2009	2009-2011	2011-2013	2013-2015	2015-2017
President	Den-Mo Tsai (TW)	Den-Mo Tsai (TW)	Taisir Subhi Yamin (JO)	Taisir Subhi Yamin (JO)	Leslie Graves (IE)	Leslie Graves (IE) (Resigned Feb 2017; Denise Fleith (BR)
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Executive Administrator	Lisa McLean (CA)	Cathrine Froese Klassen (CA)	Cathrine Froese Klassen (CA)	Tracy Harkins (US)	Tracy Harkins (US)	Tracy Harkins (US) (Through May 2015); Tyler Clark (US)
Headquarters Location (Secretariat)	University of Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada	University of Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada	University of Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada	Western Kentucky University, Bowling Green, KY	Western Kentucky University, Bowling Green, KY	Western Kentucky University, Bowling Green, KY
Journal Editor	Maria McCann Taisir Subhi Yamin	Taisir Subhi Yamin	Taisir Subhi Yamin	Taisir Subhi Yamin	Taisir Subhi Yamin	Leonie Kronborg (AU) and Barbara Kerr (US) ('15); Leonie Kronborg (AU) and Franzis Preckel (DE) (2016-2017)
Newsletter Editor	Lisa McLean; Janice Leroux (Guest Editor Summer '06); Cathrine Froese Klassen (Nov '07)	Cathrine Froese Klassen	Cathrine Froese Klassen	Tracy Harkins	Tracy Harkins	Tyler Clark
Executive Meetings (Non-Conference)				Bowling Green, KY (July 2012)	Odense	Sydney (Aug 1-6, 2016)
Conference	New Orleans	Warwick	Vancouver	Prague	Louisville	Odense





