



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR  
**Gifted Children**

Newsletter for the Special Schools and Programs Division of NAGC

# The Alliance

Greetings From the Chair-

Hello special schools and program members! I would like to thank Gina Lewis for taking on the newsletter to keep all of you informed during this very busy spring for most of us. Gina, who works at the University School in Tulsa, OK, knows first hand how busy a spring semester can get.

I wanted to highlight some activities that took place during the convention and encourage many of you who have not attended to think about the upcoming fall conference in Charlotte, NC. The Special Schools and Programs Division offered our conference attendees a rich array of topics to choose from that continued to meet the needs of our varied division members. In high attendance were sessions on the cluster model, meeting the NAGC standards in a continuum of services model, self-contained gifted classroom success, single-sexed schools and classes, and the AP program. As a division we strive to investigate innovative Programs with a capital "P." What I mean by that are programs that have a solid grounding in experience and research and ones that can be of value to all of us concerned with innovation in our schools.

The division has taken great care to offer back to the membership and we ran a scholarship for a student to attend a special school or program. More to come on that outcome in the next newsletter. In addition, we are still seeking research-based articles from members of our division. The chosen winner will receive free early bird convention fees. Read on to learn more about the guidelines.

As always, we welcome your involvement and input and invite you to be a part of what looks like an exciting convention ahead.

Sincerely,

Karen Lelli Austin

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

A note from Karen p.1

NAGC Reflection p. 2

Article Competition p. 3

Meet our Members p. 4-5

Davidson Inst. Info. p.6

Officer's Ballot p.7-10

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## A REFLECTION OF NAGC 2005 FROM ONE OF OUR MEMBERS

PAT HOLLINGSWORTH  
NAGC Convention 2005

Three NAGC presentations that I was most impressed with are capsulated below. The first one gives me an opportunity to brag. My niece, Cori Meredith, is completing her doctorate in gifted education at the University of Virginia this summer. Ours is a very small family, so it is a particular pleasure to have Cori going into the field of gifted education.

### 1. Middle School Girls

Cori spoke at the 2005 National Association for Gifted Children in Louisville, Kentucky, about her research on middle school girls. In researching the topic, she has found that girls are coming into puberty earlier. This is now occurring at about age 10, which causes everything to change for these young girls. Their frontal lobes are growing at a rate almost equal to that in infancy. This rapid brain growth in girls continues until about the age of 12 when it enters pruning activity. After age 12, girls' brains focus on what things are used the most with other areas being pruned away. The things learned, and the interests pursued by these girls at age 12 usually remain into adulthood.

Girls at this age tend to process out verbally while boys process out physically. The highly charged atmosphere in our culture causes over stimulation in girls that often produces stress. This stress causes girls to have:

1. Roller coasters of self-esteem
2. Conflicted feelings
3. Potential for vulnerability and sensitivity
4. Greater needs for attachment

Cori is currently studying the effects of same sex schools on these issues for girls. Her research seems to indicate that relationships with good role models would be beneficial to girls at this crucial time of life.

2. Universal High School: A Public Program for Creative, Independent Students in Colorado is an exciting idea whose time has come. The program, which uses Habits of Mind, allows students learn at their own pace in college courses, independent or on-line classes, as well as regular high school courses.

3. Formula for Disaster: Intensity plus Sensitivity plus Overprotection was given by Debra Troxclair: Rainard School for Gifted Children, Kingwood, Texas. She has found that parents of gifted children, themselves intense and sensitive, often have to advocate so much for their children that the children become overprotected. I too have found this same tendency in parents of gifted children.

It was a great convention and I encourage everyone to attend the 2006 NAGC Convention in Charlotte, North Carolina.



## ARTICLE COMPETITION EXTENDED

Special Schools and Programs Division Members:

Our division is happy to sponsor a competition for research-based articles on special schools or programs. The winning article, or an abridgement, will be published in our division newsletter. In addition, our division will pay the 2006 national convention fee for the author. (If the author(s) cannot attend the 2006 convention, the award may be deferred to 2007.)

### GUIDELINES:

You must be a member of the Special Schools and Programs division to apply to the competition.

The deadline for submission is August 6, 2006.

Submit articles to Gina Lewis at [gina-lewis@tulsa.edu](mailto:gina-lewis@tulsa.edu)

The winning article will be selected by a subcommittee of the division. Articles with multiple authors will be accepted. If the winning article has multiple authors, the amount paid for each author will be equal to a single convention fee divided by the number of authors.

All authors must be members of the Special Schools and Programs Division of NAGC.

Articles must be research based.

The special schools or programs considered must show innovative programming that reflects NAGC standards.

The special schools or programs considered may be entirely independent, or they may be affiliated with public school systems, with private or parochial schools, or with public or private post-secondary institutions.

Articles may be of any length, but because of space limitations, longer articles may be abridged for publication in the newsletter.

Articles must follow the conventions of the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association, 5th edition.

The convention fee for the winning author(s) will be paid directly to NAGC, not to the authors(s).

Thank you,  
Gina Lewis



Newsletter for the Special Schools and Programs Division of NAGC

## MEET SOME OF OUR MEMBERS!

### **Elizabeth W. Conner and Mary Olsky**

Eagle School, Madison, Wisconsin

Co-Directors

We joined the Special School Division of NAGC because EAGLE School is a private K-8 school with a specialized program solely for gifted children. We wanted to meet and network with other, similar schools. The gifted program at our school is the entire school.

### **Loraine Cowe**

Battle Creek Public Schools, Battle Creek, Michigan

Coordinator of Fine Arts & Talent Development

I joined the Special School Division of NAGC because we are opening a gifted school for 5-8 graders. The gifted program at my school is called Advanced and Accelerated Programming.

### **Christopher M. Freeman**

Center for Gifted, University of Chicago Laboratory Schools

Teacher

I joined the Special Schools Division of NAGC because I think special programs for gifted are an effective way to serve their needs, especially in a world of school budget cuts. The gifted program at my school is Worlds of Wisdom and Wonder Project.

### **Michael Froning**

University of Alabama at Birmingham, School of Education

Dean

I joined the Special School Division of NAGC because my former position was as Director of the Russell Mathematics and Science Center of the Alabama School of Fine Arts. This was considered a specialty high school, and when I left in 2000 it was #4 on the Jay Mathews Newsweek Best High Schools in America List. I am a lifelong (except lately) middle and high school math teacher (since 1963) who has always searched out and mentored gifted children.

### **Luanne Kittle**

The Rhoades School

Director

I joined the Special School Division of NAGC because we are an independent K-8 school for gifted children. We have been involved in the Special School Division since its inception. In fact, Dr. Charlotte Malone Glinski, founder of the Rhoades School, was one of the original planners of the division. The gifted program at my school is everywhere. We are a school solely for gifted children. Our curriculum is a gifted model that caters to the needs of our entire school population.



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## MEET MORE OF OUR MEMBERS!

### **Christine S. Neville, Ed. D**

Academy of Greater Cincinnati, Inc. for Gifted Children  
Head of School

I joined the Special School Division of NAGC because having spent 32 years in public schools, I am committed to the need for special programs and schools for gifted children. Twenty years ago I founded PEG at Mary Baldwin College in Staunton, VA which is a special residential high school/college program for highly gifted girls. We will be celebrating 20 years of program success on March 20, 2006. The Academy is a co-educational day school for highly gifted children in the Greater Cincinnati area which I also founded with a group of interested parents five years ago.

### **Ruth Robinson**

School District of Janesville, Wisconsin  
District Gifted Coordinator

I joined the Special School Division of NAGC because the School District of Janesville has operated a Magnet Program for academically gifted students in grades 4 through 8 for 20 years and I am interested in current news, research or developments in this type of program. The school that I work for is the School District of Janesville, Wisconsin. The gifted program at my school is a magnet for students in grades 4 through 8. We are a district of roughly 11,000 students. We provide transportation to the magnet location from the neighborhood schools of students. It has been in operation since 1985 with a maximum of 27 students per grade.

### **Laurie Wolfe**

Trail Wind Elementary  
Gifted and Talented Facilitator/Special Education Teacher/Reading Specialist

I joined the Special School Division of NAGC because I am interested in learning about new and different programs to meet students' needs. I also happen to be part of a team of educators who work in a unique program for our district called the Accelerated Learning Center which provides services for both gifted and talented students as well as special education students. The school that I work for has a school within a school. We offer one classroom at each grade level that operates on a year round calendar and three classrooms in each grade level operate on a traditional calendar. The gifted program at my school consists of a full time classroom for 5/6<sup>th</sup> grade students and pull-out services for students in 1<sup>st</sup> through 4<sup>th</sup> grade. We are hoping to add full time classrooms for 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> and 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> grades in the future!



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## NEED INFORMATION??

### DAVIDSON INSTITUTE

GT-CyberSource - Your Gateway to Gifted News & Resources on the Internet

GT-CyberSource ([www.GT-CyberSource.org](http://www.GT-CyberSource.org)) is a special section of the Davidson Institute's portal website ([www.Davidson-Institute.org](http://www.Davidson-Institute.org)) that contains the largest collection of information for and about gifted students, their parents and educators on the Internet.

GT-CyberSource houses:

- \* a free, searchable database of more than 450 articles and 4,000 resources, including information on intelligence tests, ideas for advocacy, academic competitions, early college programs, book reviews, curriculum materials, distance learning opportunities, summer programs and much more;
- \* an events calendar with local, regional and national conference listings across the country;
- \* an archived summary of gifted education news articles from across the country are routinely posted to the website's homepage for easy access and are then placed in our extensive, online archive for continuous reference;
- \* a database of state and federal gifted education policies, including your state's definition of gifted as well as legislative information;
- \* discussion forums on gifted-related topics.

All GT-CyberSource resources are rated on a five-star-scale with comments from profoundly intelligent young people, their parents and professionals. Please submit gifted-related events to the events calendar, suggest new resources and articles for the database, submit comments on existing resources, and post opinions or questions on the discussion forums by visiting [www.GT-CyberSource.org](http://www.GT-CyberSource.org).

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<p>Official Research &amp; Evaluation Division Ballot 2006-7 Spring 2005</p>
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*Instructions: Vote for the candidates of your choice on the enclosed ballot form. Fold the ballot form in half, tape closed, affix postage, and mail back to NAGC by June 1, 2006.*

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\*\*\* Candidate for Secretary / Treasurer \*\*\*

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Christine S. Neville, Ed. D.  
Academy for Gifted Children in Cincinnati

**Position Description**

The Secretary / Treasurer serves for two years. Our bylaws state "The Secretary / Treasurer shall keep the minutes of the Division meetings and be responsible for all financial records for the Division and for payment of bills in accordance with the budget and the co-authorization of the Chair".

**Candidate Statement / Information**

Christine S. Neville, Ed.D. BS, Skidmore College; MEd & EdD, University of Virginia. She is currently Head of School of the Academy for Gifted Children in Cincinnati, OH, which she designed and founded. The Academy is in its fifth year as an independent day school for highly gifted children. She also designed and founded the Mary Baldwin College PEG program which held its 20th year celebration on March 31, 2006. PEG is a one of a kind residential program for exceptionally gifted girls who attend college instead of high school. In the public schools she has been a high school principal for three different high schools, a supervisor for gifted in two school divisions, a teacher center director and a teacher of teachers for the University of Virginia, James Madison University and the University of Maine. She has served as co-chair of the Global Awareness division of NAGC.



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\*\*\* Candidate for Newsletter Editor \*\*\*

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**Gina Lewis**  
**University School at the University of Tulsa**  
**Assistant Director of Administration**

**Position Description**

The Newsletter Editor serves for two years. Our bylaws state that the “Newsletter Editor shall be responsible for producing a minimum of two newsletters per year and will work with the Association Editor”.

**Candidate Statement / Information**

Gina Lewis taught at the University of Tulsa for 10 years before recently being promoted to administration. She will graduate with a master’s degree in education with an emphasis in gifted education in 2007. She has contributed and co-edited two books for gifted children and has also served on a state board for gifted organizations.



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PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE

Special Schools and Programs Division Ballot  
NAGC  
1707 L Street, Suite 550  
Washington, DC 20036



## INSTRUCTIONS

1. Complete ballot on reverse side of this page.
2. Fold ballot in thirds with address showing.
3. Tape closed, affix postage stamp.
4. Return ballot to NAGC by June 1, 2005.

## Research & Evaluation Ballot 2005-2006

Please vote for one candidate in each category:

Secretary/Treasurer

Christine Neville

\_\_\_\_\_ (write in)

Newsletter Editor

Gina Lewis

\_\_\_\_\_ (write in)

Please complete and return this one-page ballot to the address on the reverse by  
June 1, 2006.

Photocopied ballots will not be accepted.