



# Concepts!

Volume 17, Number 2  
Summer 2005

A Journal of the Mississippi  
Association for Gifted Children

## Ken Vinton to Keynote 2006 MAGC Conference

The keynote address for the 2006 MAGC conference will be given by illustrator/art educator Ken Vinton. Mr. Vinton has been teaching for 32 years and has spent 15 years traveling throughout the U.S. giving lectures on creativity.

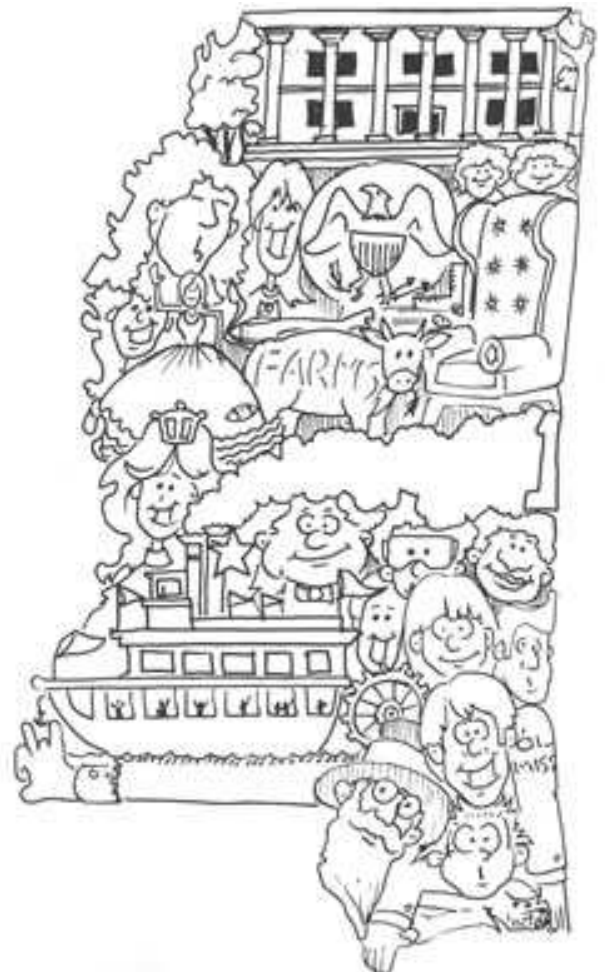
“During my creativity lecture, I use between 150 and 250 overhead illustrations. I use cartoons and drawings—everything visual. It’s more interesting if you can see a part of creativity instead of just hearing about it.” said Vinton.

Mr. Vinton wrote and self-published a book, “Creativity, Who has it and where is it and why” in 1990. Since then he has illustrated books for Free Spirit Publishing. These include the titles “Growing Good Kids” with Deb and Jim Delisle and “You Know Your Child is Gifted When...” with Judy Galbraith.

“In terms of creativity, Ken Vinton is off the charts,” said Galbraith. “He’s funny and fun to work with. He’s also hard working, energetic, honest, and if I were a student again, I’d absolutely want him to be one of my teachers.”

Mr. Vinton has also used his talents to illustrate books for the Philadelphia School District in Pennsylvania and to illustrate for speakers at lectures and conferences. Beginning in 2000 he worked for 2 years with profoundly gifted students in Lake Tahoe.

This year’s MAGC conference is set for September 28-29, 2006 at the Regency Hotel-Conference Center in Jackson, MS. Ken Vinton’s theme will be, *Every Once in a While You Get a Once in a WOW! Creativity is More Important Than... Anything!* Conference registration forms are found later in this issue of Concepts!



## NAGC 2006 Convention

This year, the National Association for Gifted Children will hold its 53rd Annual Convention in Charlotte, NC on November 1—6, 2006. For a full schedule of events and registration forms, visit the NAGC web-site at [www.nagc.org](http://www.nagc.org)

### In This Issue ...

From the Executive Director	Page 2
From the MAGC President	Page 2
Bookshelf	Page 4
Happenings at the Karnes Center	Page 4
Hurricane Relief	Page 6
Hall of Honors	Page 7
NASA Space Place	Page 8
Summer Scholarship Form	Page 10
Conference Proposal Form	Page 12

---

## From the Executive Director

---

You will recall that upon my retirement from the Jackson Public Schools in 1998, the MAGC Board gave me the opportunity to become a consultant for the organization. After a couple of years as serving in that capacity, I became the executive director. Being in this position has been a unique experience for me because I have had the opportunity to network with so many different people and organizations. It has been my privilege to represent all of you as I worked with the NAGC (National Association for Gifted Children), Mississippi Dept. of Education, Mississippi Legislature as well as our Mississippi delegation in Washington. I have represented MAGC as I served on boards of various professional organizations around the state. Working with parents around the state to form affiliate groups has been rewarding. Thank you for providing these opportunities which have continued to challenge and position me to keep the needs of the gifted at the forefront.

There have been many rewarding experiences along the way. Our collaboration with the personnel at MDE has positioned us to bring changes that strengthen gifted education. The advances that have been made through the standards and revised regulations will provide a better opportunity for quality programming and equitable identification. One of the most rewarding experiences has been our work with our Hurricane Katrina Project.

We have forged new friendships with teachers,

parents and students across the United States who became personally involved in our efforts to help restore gifted classrooms on the gulf coast. Many of you have also been personally involved in sharing in this effort. To all of you, thank you so much for the contribution you have made. BUT the job is not complete. There are still many needs, let us not forget that. Please stay in touch with our gifted teachers on the coast as we come to the end of this school year and YES, even as we begin the new school year for 2006-07. The need is still great!

I have been very fortunate to be in the world of gifted education since 1975. I loved teaching gifted children, I loved working with gifted teachers and I have loved my many roles in MAGC through the years. This has been my passion as you know. But now it is time for me to slow down (imagine that) and have more time for myself and family. SO, I am resigning my position effective June 30, 2006. I think you know me well enough to understand that I will stay as active with MAGC as my health permits. My challenge to each of you is to stay involved in every aspect of gifted education at the local and state level. Support MAGC as they continue to fight the battle in behalf of students, teachers and parents to assure an appropriate education for our gifted population.

Again, thank you for the great honor of serving with you and for you.

Jean



---

## From the MAGC President

---

Dear MAGC Members,

In mid-April I had the pleasure of representing Mississippi at a national summit in Washington, DC on developing talent in promising children who live in poverty. We certainly have significant numbers of economically disadvantaged students in the schools across our state. There is now a national focus on identifying and serving these students who are traditionally under-represented in gifted programs. I view this as an opportunity for Mississippi to be a national leader in this area.

The Jacob K. Javits program through the U.S. Department of Education is the only federal funding available to the states for gifted education. Each year, this relatively small program is threatened during the congressional budgetary process. I encourage you to contact you state congressmen and senators and request their support for this very important program.

I'd like to extend heartfelt congratulations to Dr. Bob Seney from MUW on his retirement. Dr. Se-

ney has been a central figure in gifted education in our state for many years. His "What's New in Young Adult Literature" sessions are always a conference favorite. We appreciate the work he's accomplished on behalf of gifted children in our state and nation and wish him the very best as he begins a new chapter in his life.

Finally, I know that our membership across the state will be surprised and saddened at the news of Jean Prather's impending retirement. Jean has been diligent and untiring in leading the efforts for continued funding for gifted programs in our state. Her passion for gifted learners has been the inspiration for this organization for many years as well as for teachers and students throughout Mississippi. While we will greatly miss Jean's leadership and vision, we know the legacy she has built for gifted education in this state will continue. We hope you will join us in celebrating Jean's retirement in Jackson at our September conference.

Kate M. Brown





## Planets in Strange Places

By Trudy E. Bell

Red star, blue star, big star, small star-planets may form around virtually any type or size of star throughout the universe, not just around mid-sized middle-aged yellow stars like the Sun. That's the surprising implication of two recent discoveries from the 0.85-meter-diameter Spitzer Space Telescope, which is exploring the universe from orbit at infrared (heat) wavelengths blocked by the Earth's atmosphere.

At one extreme are two blazing, blue "hypergiant" stars 180,000 light-years away in the Large Magellanic Cloud, one of the two companion galaxies to our Milky Way. The stars, called R 66 and R 126, are respectively 30 and 70 times the mass of the Sun, "about as massive as stars can get," said Joel Kastner, professor of imaging science at the Rochester Institute of Technology in New York. R 126 is so luminous that if it were placed 10 parsecs (32.6 light-years) away—a distance at which the Sun would be one of the dimmest stars visible in the sky—the hypergiant would be as bright as the full moon, "definitely a daytime object," Kastner remarked.

Such hot stars have fierce solar winds, so Kastner and his team are mystified why any dust in the neighborhood hasn't long since been blown away. But there it is: an unmistakable spectral signature that both hypergiants are surrounded by mammoth disks of what might be planet-forming dust and even sand.

At the other extreme is a tiny brown dwarf star called Cha 110913-773444, relatively nearby (500 light-years) in the Milky Way. One of the smallest brown dwarfs known, it has less than 1 percent the mass of the Sun. It's not even massive enough to kindle thermonuclear reactions for fusing hydrogen into helium. Yet this miniature "failed star," as brown dwarfs are often called, is also surrounded by a flat disk of dust that may eventually clump into planets. (Note: This brown dwarf discovery was made by a group led by Kevin Luhman of Pennsylvania State University.)

Although actual planets have not been detected (in

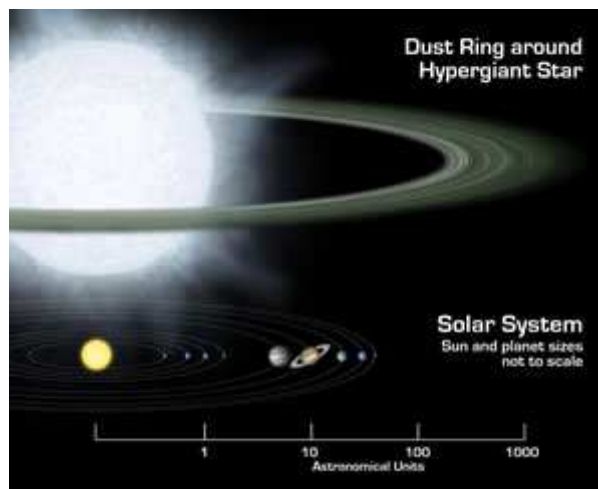
part because of the stars' great distances), the spectra of the hypergiants show that their dust is composed of forsterite, olivine, aromatic hydrocarbons, and other geological substances found on Earth.

These newfound disks represent "extremes of the environments in which planets might form," Kastner said. "Not what you'd expect if you think our solar system is the rule."

Hypergiants and dwarfs? The Milky Way could be crowded with worlds circling every kind of star imaginable—very strange, indeed.

Keep up with the latest findings from the Spitzer at [www.spitzer.caltech.edu/](http://www.spitzer.caltech.edu/). For kids, the Infrared Photo Album at The Space Place ([spaceplace.nasa.gov/en/kids/sirtf1/sirtf\\_action.shtml](http://spaceplace.nasa.gov/en/kids/sirtf1/sirtf_action.shtml)) introduces the electromagnetic spectrum and compares the appearance of common scenes in visible versus infrared light.

*This article was provided by the Jet Propulsion Laboratory, California Institute of Technology, under a contract with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.*



*Artist's rendering compares size of a hypothetical hypergiant star and its surrounding dusty disk to that of our solar system.*

**Want to know more about gifted programs in Mississippi and throughout the nation? Visit these web-sites!**

MAGC's Official Web Site—[www.msms.k12.ms.us/MAGC/](http://www.msms.k12.ms.us/MAGC/)  
The Frances A. Karnes Center for Gifted Studies—[www.usm.edu/gifted](http://www.usm.edu/gifted)  
NAGC's Official Web Site—[www.nagc.org](http://www.nagc.org)  
Duke Talent Identification Program (TIP) - [www.tip.duke.edu](http://www.tip.duke.edu)



## The Bookshelf

By: Dr. Bob Seney

### Summer Reading, The Newbery Awards and Goodbye

As promised in our last *Bookshelf*, we will take a brief look at this year's Newbery Awards. When in doubt on what to read next, going to award lists is a safe bet and especially if you check out the Newberys. The Newbery Awards are the equivalent of the Oscars for children's literature. Each year, a special American Library Association committee selects a Medal Book and up to four Honor Books. I was especially pleased with this year's Newbery Medal Book, *Criss Cross* by Lynne Rae Perkins (2005, Greenwillow Books.) Perkins is the author and illustrator of several picture books, and an impressive number of them have received prestigious awards. Her first children's novel *All Alone in the Universe* (1999, Greenwillow Books) was named an ALA Notable Book, an ALA Booklist Editors' Choice, a Bulletin Blue Ribbon Book, and a *Smithsonian* Notable Book for Children. Not a bad beginning, huh?

In her second novel, *Criss Cross*, Perkins is obviously continuing this "tradition" of producing award winners. But *Criss Cross* is not just an award winner; it is a delightful and perhaps very significant book about five friends who are not only discovering new dimensions to their relationship, but new nuances to their own identities. The structure of the novel beautifully reflects the basic theme of "connectedness." The facing page to the title page depicts a graph entitled "the spectrum of connectedness" with the notation that on the spectrum at the 0% end "No one is here – no One" and also that "No one is here – no One" is 100% connected. An additional notation states that "people move back and forth in this area [between 0 and 100%] like molecules in steam."

*Criss Cross* is the story of Debbie, Hector, Phil, Lenny, and Patty who are moving in this spectrum of connectedness. As the story unfolds, we think, perhaps, that these characters are unconnected or at best loosely connected and that this is the story of just how each of these older middle school kids will come together. Eventually, we realize "Hey, these kids already know each other and in fact, they are close friends." They live in the same neighborhood and have gone to school with each other for most of their school careers. Aha! Perkins is constructing her novel to reflect that as each of these kids come to understand him/herself better, they find they are no longer as "connected" to their old friends and then they begin to discover new connections with them and others. I was totally wrapped up in the craftsmanship of this novel, but not to worry, for those of you who are looking for a good story, you will certainly find it among a plethora of sub-plots. I was especially caught up in Debbie's and Mrs. Bruning's story that introduces a note of first love and deals with the issue of an older person who wishes to keep her integrity and independence.

Another one of my favorite sub-stories was Hector's

adventures as he falls in love with the guitar AND an attractive young lady in his guitar class. Discovering a new talent in making and writing music, another connection, Hector is on a roller-coaster of infatuation, complete with an adversary in the person of a handsome young jock with whom he battles for the attention of his lady fair. This bit is both fun and funny. In fact, humor is decidedly present throughout the book and especially in the chapter entitled "Easy Basin Wrench or Debbie Has a Mechanical Moment, Too." What a wonderful little chapter! And perhaps more important, it is a sequence that shows the closeness of Debbie and her father, another connection. This chapter may well become one of my staple "read-aloud" pieces.

*Criss Cross* is a winner even without that nice little gold Newbery Medal on the cover. I suspect that many of our older elementary and middle school students will not only find themselves amongst the pages, but they will discover a very good and fun read as well.

The four Newbery Honor Books are just as impressive and they reflect a very diverse set of styles. They are -- alphabetically by author-- *Whittington* by Alan Armstrong, illustrated by S.D. Schindler (Random House), *Hitler Youth: Growing Up in Hitler's Shadow* by Susan Campbell Bartoletti (Scholastic Nonfiction, an imprint of Scholastic), *Princess Academy* by Shannon Hale (Bloomsbury Children's Books) and *Show Way* by Jacqueline Woodson, illustrated by Hudson Talbott (G.P. Putnam's Sons).

Since I used up so much of my space with *Criss Cross*, I will have to condense a bit for the honor books, but I can't resist going on a bit more about one of these books. *Princess Academy* by Shannon Hale is right down my alley. Readers of *The Bookshelf* are probably well aware of my preference for fantasy fiction. *Princess Academy* wonderfully fits that bill. *Princess Academy* is what I call a "soft sale" fantasy novel. The setting is fairly realistic and the characters are very much real. It is only the situation and what happens that moves the story into fantasy fiction. Unlike "hard core" fantasy in which we readily know that we are dwelling in a wonderful world of strange and amazing characters, dragons, or unicorns or whatever. Don't get me wrong, I delight in that style of fantasy, too, but there is something really nice in reading a story such as *Princess Academy*. It seems that this could easily have happened some time, some place in the not so far distant past or in some cases future.

I was immediately reminded of two favorites *Aria of the Sea* (2000, Winslow Press) by Dia Calhoun and *Od Magic* by Patricia McKillip (2005, Ace Books). These books would make great companion pieces for the *Academy*. In this novel, we have the story of Miri, who lives on Mount Eskel in the Kingdom of Danland. Miri's people are stone masons and for many years have quarried the beautiful Mount Eskel marble from the mountain. Because of their remoteness, the closeness of the people, and perhaps the heart of the mountain itself, Miri's village folk have developed a unique culture. There are few riches in the village, and life is hard but good. Miri's only disappointment is the refusal of her father to allow her to work in the quarry. Eventually, we discover that

his reason is integral to the plot and to Miri's own self-esteem.

Life goes on until the day that a royal messenger arrives to announce that the king's priests have divined that the future wife of the young Prince would be from their province. Therefore all the girls between the ages of 12 and 17 would be sent to an academy. There the stern Olana Mansdaughter, an emissary from the Royal Court, would prepare the girls, one of whom would be chosen as the future queen of the kingdom. This was not a task that the Tutor Olana relished. Her personality and her strict adherence to a set of antiquated rules do not endear her to the girls.

As study at the academy progresses, fierce rivalries develop. Miri finds that she, too, is caught up in the competition and at the same time she struggles with her own conflicting desires to be chosen. Her family is very important to her as is her growing love for Peder, a village boy. She does not want to leave her beloved mountain, but could she do more for her people if she were chosen? The stories of each of the girls are developed, but the climax is not found in the Prince's visit to make his selection. His unusual behavior and early departure confuses everybody and we begin to discover a mystery. On his departure, the academy is captured by a band of brigands with the intent to hold the future princess for ransom. It is Miri who eventually saves the girls and brings about a new unity among the girls and the people of her village. This is truly a well-crafted novel with many intricacies and delightful humor. Hale has two other novels to her credit, *The Goose Girl* (2003, Bloomsbury Children's Books) and *Enna Burning* (2004, Bloomsbury Children's Books). You can bet that I will be looking for them. There is a very interesting interview with Shannon Hale at [www.embracingthechild.org/ahale.html](http://www.embracingthechild.org/ahale.html) and her official web site is [www.squeetus.com](http://www.squeetus.com).

Oh my! 1,489 words already and I have three more books to go! My apologies but to make sure that we keep Lisa, our wonderful *Concepts* editor on our side, I will have to use the summary of the books from the ALA Newbery Award Page on the ALA website. This is unfortunate since I have some special things to say about each one of these wonderful Honor Books, but we must do what we must do.

### **The Three Remaining 2006 Newbery Honor Books**

*Whittington* by Alan Armstrong, illustrated by S.D. Schindler (Random House) "In *Whittington*, Armstrong creates a glorious barnyard fantasy that seamlessly weaves together three tales: Whittington the cat's arrival on Bernie's farm, his retelling of the traditional legend of his 14th-century namesake, and one boy's struggle to learn to read. These three tales unite the disparate citizens of the barn community in a celebration of oral and written language, the support of friends, the healing power of humor and the triumph of life."

*Hitler Youth: Growing Up in Hitler's Shadow* by Susan Campbell Bartoletti (Scholastic Nonfiction, an imprint of Scholastic). "How could the Holocaust have happened? Bar-

toletti delivers a chilling answer by exploring Hitler's rise to power through the first-hand experiences of young followers whose adolescent zeal he so successfully exploited and the more extraordinary few who risked certain death in resisting. The meticulously researched volume traces the Hitler Youth movement from the time it formally gathered strength in the early 1930s through the defeat of the Third Reich. The grace and clarity of the writing make *Hitler Youth: Growing Up in Hitler's Shadow* a powerful addition to Holocaust literature for children."

*Show Way* by Jacqueline Woodson, illustrated by Hudson Talbott (G.P. Putnam's Sons) "And the children leaned in./ And listened real hard." Jacqueline Woodson's magnificent poem *Show Way* tells the story of slavery, emancipation and triumph for each generation of her maternal ancestors. She pays tribute to the creative women who guided their "tall and straight-boned" daughters to courage, self-sufficiency and freedom. Whether with quilts or stories, poems or songs, these women discovered and shared the strength to carry on. "There's a road, girl./There's a road." [This is truly a beautiful book and could easily have been considered for a Caldecott Award. By the way, Woodson's picture book *Coming On Home Soon*, illustrated by E. B. Lewis (2004, G. P. Putnam's Sons), was named a 23005 Caldecott Honor Book.

So there you have it: the 2006 Newbery Award Books, certainly plenty of quality summer reading for both you and your students. For your younger readers and for those of you who use picture books with older students (which I heartily recommend) don't forget the Caldecott Awards. While the focus is on the illustrations in children's literature, the committee also looks at the interaction of narrative and illustrations. For your convenience, I have listed the 2006 Caldecott Award books below. (Sorry, Lisa, but I do keep going on!)

### **One last Personal Note:**

This *BookShelf* represents the last of many columns which I have had the joy in sharing with you over the years. I will be retiring from Mississippi University for Women after Governor's School and relocating to the Durango, Colorado area. I have enjoyed my years in Mississippi and I have enjoyed sharing my love for gifted kids, gifted education and literature with you (y'all!). I appreciate the recognition of my contributions to gifted education and specifically to Mississippi gifted education offered at our last conference. We have won many battles for gifted education, but folks, the "gifted" war is not won yet! Good luck to you as you continue to served gifted youth in Mississippi. I certainly intend to keep reading and will make my lists available. I will be able to keep my MUW email address [bseney@muw.edu](mailto:bseney@muw.edu) And now, one last

***Happy Reading!***

Sincerely,  
Bob Seney  
Professor in Gifted Studies, Retired

# Happenings at the Karnes Center

**GIFTED/AT RISK YOUTH**—A Resource Guide for Screening, Identification, and Serving Potentially Gifted/At-Risk Youth will be available later this summer. The resource guide is a compilation of information gathered through extensive review of literature regarding gifted/at-risk youth and a research study conducted by the Frances A. Karnes Center for Gifted Studies. The study examined the relationship between self-concept and non-verbal intelligence in potentially gifted/at-risk youth.

**DAY OF SHARING FOR TEACHERS OF THE GIFTED, SEPT. 15, 2006**—The Day of Sharing for Teachers of the Gifted will be held on Friday, September 15, 2006 at the Center for Healthy Living located at the Hattiesburg Family Y. This conference, sponsored by the Frances A. Karnes Center for Gifted Studies, is designed to educate teachers on current curriculum and instructional issues in gifted education. Teachers of the gifted, regular education teachers, psychologists, and administrators are encouraged to attend. There is no cost for the conference. The deadline for registration is September 1, 2006.

Dr. Sylvia Rimm, Director of Family Achievement Clinic in Cleveland, Ohio will be the keynote speaker. She will present *The Social Emotional Development of Gifted Children: Understanding and Serving Their Needs*. Dr. Rimm was a contributing correspondent for NBC's *Today Show* and was featured on the *Oprah Winfrey Show* and in *People* magazine. Dr. Rimm is also a clinical professor at Case School of Medicine, in Cleveland.

Other sessions will be lead by Dr. Conrad Castle, State Consultant for Gifted Education who will present *Mississippi Gifted Education: The Instructional Management Plan*. Dr. Sandra Manning, will present *Appropriate Practices for Screening, Identifying, and Serving Potentially Gifted Preschoolers*. Jean Prather, Executive Director of the Mississippi Association for Gifted Children, will give an update on current legislation and how it effects gifted education. Immediately following lunch, teachers will be given time to share activities and ideas. Teachers should indicate their intent to share materials on their registration form.

**Parenting Gifted Children Conference XXII-XXIII, SEPT. 16, 2006**—The Frances A. Karnes Center for Gifted Studies at The University of Southern Mississippi will hold its 22<sup>nd</sup>/ 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Parenting Gifted Children Conference on September 16, 2006. The conference is offered to assist parents and other concerned adults to better understand the unique intellectual, academic, and social-emotional needs of the gifted and talented. It will be held in Joseph A. Green Hall on the Hattiesburg campus of Southern Miss. The cost of attendance is \$30.

Dr. Sylvia Rimm, Director of Family Achievement Clinic in Cleveland, Ohio will be the keynote speaker. She will present *Growing Up Too Fast: What Parents Can Do to Help Their Gifted Child*. Dr. Rimm was a contributing correspondent for NBC's *Today Show* and was featured on the *Oprah Winfrey Show* and in *People* magazine. Dr. Rimm is also a clinical professor at Case School of Medicine, in Cleveland.

Other sessions to be held during the conference include: *Developing Parent Leadership, How to Start an MAGC Affiliate, The Young Scientist, Supporting Visually Artistic Children, Instructional Management Plans, Resources for Scientific Exploration, and Appropriate Practices for Gifted Preschoolers*. The deadline for registration is September 1, 2006. Don't miss this opportunity to meet Dr. Rimm and other leaders in Gifted Education in Mississippi.

**Career Explorations for Girls Conference, OCT. 21, 2006**—The 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Career Explorations for Girls Conference will be conducted on the Hattiesburg campus of The University of Southern Mississippi on Saturday, October 21, 2006 from 8:00 am to 3:45 pm. The conference is open to all girls in grades 7-12 and each girl must be accompanied by her mother or another adult female. Girls do **not** need to be enrolled in gifted education to attend. More information regarding registration dates will be available during the summer.

**Advanced Degrees in Gifted Education**—USM and the Department of Curriculum, Instruction, and Special Education, offer a Master's Degree, Specialist's Degree, and a Ph.D. in curriculum, instruction, and special education with an emphasis in gifted education. Five courses are offered for anyone beginning an advanced degree program or in getting certified to teach the gifted.

SPE 560 Characteristics of the Gifted

SPE 661 Methods and Materials for Teaching Gifted Students

SPE 663 Atypical Gifted Students

SPE 664 Practicum with Gifted Students

SPE 662 Curriculum Development in Gifted Education

The Karnes Center has \$500.00 scholarships available for persons enrolled in graduate degree programs in gifted education for the summer of 2006. To qualify, the student must meet the admission requirements of the university for master's, specialist's, or doctoral programs with an emphasis in gifted education. Consideration will be given to graduate students in specialized programs in elementary and secondary schools for the college and university positions in the field of gifted education. For more information contact The Karnes Center at the numbers given below.

## For More Information Contact

The Frances A. Karnes Center for Gifted Studies ▪ The University of Southern Mississippi  
118 College Drive #8207 ▪ Hattiesburg, MS 39406-0001 ▪ (601)266-5236 ▪ fax (601)266-4978

E-mail: [gifted\\_studies@usm.edu](mailto:gifted_studies@usm.edu) ▪ <http://www.usm.edu/gifted>

## Awards for Excellence in Private Enterprise Education

The Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge conducts the Leavey Awards for Excellence in Private Enterprise Education. These awards honor outstanding educators who excite a commitment in their students to the free enterprise system. Established in 1977, and now permanently endowed by the Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Foundation of Los Angeles, the program honors instructors who unleash the entrepreneurial

skills of their students at the elementary, junior high school, high school and college level. Up to 20 cash awards valued at \$7,500 each are made annually. One award of \$15,000 may be made for an outstanding entry.

The deadline for entries is November 1, 2006. For more information and nomination form, visit their web site at <http://www.ffvf.org/leavey.asp>.

## Teachers Invited to Programs in Economic Education

Numerous gifted teachers have been soaking up all the professional development that the Mississippi Council on Economic Education (MCEE) can offer, because their students excel with the interactive lessons that are available through the MCEE. Economics is the science of choice and teachers are generally not well-prepared through their college curriculum to teach the state standards in economics that are required Kindergarten through Grade 12. The MCEE is the only professional development organization in the state that provides research based programming and lessons for teachers to use with their students. Continuing education units are provided. Programming has been provided for two and one-half years with great success for teachers.

MAGC member, Pamela Carrubba of Bay Waveland will be completing the Master Teacher of Economics (MTE) program this summer and she teaches her students economics every day. Carrubba was named as one of the top ten economics teachers in the country by the National Council on Economic Education in fall 2005. The MTE is a yearlong program and teachers earn special recognition on their certificate as

"master economics" teachers.

MAGC members are urged to register now for the Focus on the Economy : Global Perspective workshops at Mississippi State University on June 13-June 15. Teachers attending the Tuesday, June 13 workshop, which is the first day of the Master Teacher in Economics Program, will receive training on a CD-ROM entitled Thinking Globally: Effective Lessons for Teaching about the Interdependent World Economy. On Wednesday, June 14, the topic is Economic Recovery: The Central Bank at Work presented by the Federal Reserve Bank. Topics include Katrina recovery and 9-11. On Thursday, June 15, the topic is Federal Reserve Financial Education presented by the Federal Reserve Bank. Teachers can register for one day or all three days. The programs for each day are from 8:30 a.m. to 3:15 p.m. All sessions are free to teachers and will be held in the Hunter Henry Center where there is ample parking. Lunch and continuing education units will be provided. Rooms at Mississippi State's Ruby Residence Hall are available. On-line registration is available at [www.mscee.org](http://www.mscee.org) Please contact the MCEE for additional information at 601-961-4408.

### Mark Your Calendars!

The next Creativity Exploration at William Carey College is scheduled for July 17-19, 2006

For more information call Dr. Read Diket at 601-318-6205 or visit the William Carey web site at

<http://www.wmcarey.edu/academics/education/diket%20wd.shtml>

### Retired Teacher Needed to Help MCEE

The Mississippi Council on Economic Education (MCEE) has an opening for a teacher to help inform schools in North Mississippi about the availability of a new Stock Market Game. The MCEE is the only professional development organization in the state that provides research based programming and lessons for teachers to use with their students. All programming is done in cooperation with the MS Department of Education and Dr. Hank Bounds, State Superintendent is a member of the Board of Directors.

The successful applicant will have a strong background in Mississippi education and be able to communicate with administrators about the importance of this tool. Training will be provided.

Send e-mail indicating interest and resume to Pamela P. Smith, Ph.D., President of the MCEE to [psmith@mscee.org](mailto:psmith@mscee.org). For additional information, please phone Dr. Smith at 601-961-4408.

# Hall of Honors

## Hardman Wins Save Our History Award

Shirley Hardman, a teacher of the gifted at Woolmarket Elementary in Biloxi, MS was recently selected as a winner in the Save Our History National Honors contest. This award comes with a \$1000 cash prize for use in Mrs. Hardman's classroom.

The Save Our History program is designed to encourage teachers to bring local history into their classrooms. Mrs. Hardman's winning project involved students in grades 2-6. The students investigated school records and visited a local cemetery to learn things about their school's history, what role vaccination played in the mortality of children, burial practices over the years, etc. Congratulations to Mrs. Hardman and the gifted students of Woolmarket Elementary for receiving this national honor.



## Angela Sims Named AEE Teacher of the Year

Angela Sims, a teacher of the gifted at Star Reach Center in Jones County, was named Teacher of the Year for her school this spring. Sims was nominated by her peers for this honor which was awarded by the Association for Excellence in Education. A banquet honoring Sims and other AEE award winning teachers was held at Jones County Junior College in May. Ms. Sims has been teaching gifted children in grades 2-6 at Star Reach for 6 years.

## Saucier Students to Represent MS in FPS Competition



Students in the Journey program in West Wortham Middle School in Saucier, MS took top honors at the state level Future Problem Solving competition. Three teams from this school placed on the state level and two will represent MS in Colorado in the international bowls. The students are being coached by their Journey teacher, Theresa Rea. The team members and their awards are listed below.

- 1st Place in Team Booklet—Joslin F., Lacy L., Dustin M., and Lisa S.
- 2nd Place in Team Booklet—Lindsey E., Sarah L., Ashton N., and Wes R.
- 1st Place in Presentation of Action Plan—Brittney J., Kaila M., Destiney M., and Mark S.
- 2nd Place in Presentation of Action Plan—Joslin F., Lacy L., Dustin M., and Lisa S.

## Belmont Teacher Writes Poem on Benjamin Bloom

Mrs. Cathy Eaton has been teaching gifted education in Belmont, MS for 10 years. One of her goals has been to make Bloom's Taxonomy more kid-friendly. She has written a poem below for the purpose.

### BENJAMIN BLOOM

There once was a man named Benjamin Bloom,  
Who dabbled around with a brain and a broom,  
But really what matters  
As he climbed his ladders  
He found that his brain looked like King Tut's Tomb.

Chamber upon chamber with sweet little nooks,  
Were filled up with **KNOWLEDGE** from reading his books.  
And then like a lightbulb all glowing and bright,  
He suddenly **COMPREHENDED** and, oh, what a sight.

I'll **APPLY** what I've learned to reach my life's goal,  
Of finding the connection between my brain and my soul.  
Scratching his head, he thought of a poem,  
He studied and **ANALYZED** till the cows came home.  
"I've got it!" he shouted as he blinked his blue eyes,  
"I am the only 'ME I AM.' I can **SYNTHESIZE!**"  
To create and design and make one of a kind,  
My soul whispers of treasures that only I find.  
**EVALUATE** me and surely you'll see,  
My brain needs my soul so I can be me.

Do you know Mississippi gifted students and teachers that have won honors? We'd like to recognize them in *Concepts!* Just send info and pictures to Lisa Saucier at [lsaucier@jackson.k12.ms.us](mailto:lsaucier@jackson.k12.ms.us) or 1120 Riverside Dr., Jackson, MS 39202.

# MAGC CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FORM

September 27-28, 2006

Regency Hotel and Conference Center, Jackson, Mississippi

**Registration Information:** Registration includes MAGC membership for one year. Complete and return this form with your check or purchase order. Make checks payable to MAGC. Purchase order number alone is not a valid payment. You must include the actual purchase order.

**Cancellation Policy:** Cancellations must be received in writing by September 19, 2006, and are subject to a \$15.00 processing fee. Refunds will not be issued before November 15, 2006.

**Transportation and Parking:** Shuttle transportation to and from the Jackson airport is complimentary. Ample parking surrounds the hotel. There is no fee for parking.

**Lodging:** Complete separate lodging reservation form and send it directly to The Regency.

MAGC Membership card # \_\_\_\_\_ expiration date \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

School District/ Organization \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to Gifted Education \_\_\_\_\_

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION AND/OR MEMBERSHIP FEES		AMOUNT
<b>SELECT ONE ONLY</b>	<b>Early Registration Fee..... \$90.00</b> <b>(must be postmarked by September 1, 2006)</b>	\$
	<b>Regular Registration Fee .....</b> <b>\$95.00</b> <b>(must be postmarked by September 15, 2006)</b>	\$
	<b>On-Site Registration Fee (after September 15, 2006) .....</b> \$100.00	\$
	<b>Undergraduate Student Registration Fee .....</b> \$30.00 <b>(must show student ID at registration)</b>	\$
	<b>Main Presenter Membership Fee .....</b> <b>\$25.00</b>	\$
	<b>Family Night ONLY .....</b> \$3.00 per person or \$5.00 per family	\$
<b>TOTAL AMOUNT DUE</b>		<b>\$</b>

AFTER SEPTEMBER 15, 2006, BRING THIS FORM WITH YOU FOR ON-SITE REGISTRATION.  
FORMS POSTMARKED AFTER SEPTEMBER 16 WILL BE ASSESSED A \$5.00 ON-SITE SURCHARGE.

Mail completed registration form and payment to: Carol Paola, 1513 Westward Dr., Gulfport, MS 39501

**2006 Conference Lodging Reservation Form  
Regency Hotel and Conference Center**

**Mississippi Association for Gifted Children**

**September 28-29, 2006**

*To receive the special conference rate, this form must be received by **August 27, 2006\***.*

*\*Any housing request received after this date will be accepted at the rate of \$99.00, based on availability.*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Group \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ email \_\_\_\_\_

**MAGC Group Rate: \$82.00** per room per night – single /double occupancy

(All rates subject to 11% tax plus \$.75 occupancy city tax – per room per night.)

Arrival Date \_\_\_\_\_

Departure Date \_\_\_\_\_

Estimated Arrival Time \_\_\_\_\_

Arriving via: \_\_\_car \_\_\_van \_\_\_air

Check in as early as 3:00 p.m. Check out by 11:00 a.m.

Number and Type Rooms Requested: \_\_\_ Non-smoking \_\_\_ Smoking

\_\_\_ 1 person: 1 bed

\_\_\_ 2 persons: \_\_\_1 bed \_\_\_2 beds

\_\_\_ 3 persons: 2 beds

\_\_\_ 4 persons: 2 beds

Reservation Guaranteed by: \_\_\_ Check

\_\_\_ Money Order

\_\_\_ Assured by Credit Card (Complete info below.)

*American Express, Visa, MasterCard, Discover Card*

Type \_\_\_\_\_ Acct# \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. \_\_\_\_\_

I understand that I am responsible for payment of guaranteed reservations.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

- Deposit is refundable if reservation is cancelled 72 hours prior to arrival. Failure to cancel reservation will result in one night's penalty charge.

**Return this form to: Regency Hotel and Conference Center**

**Attn: Robert Dumas, 400 Greymont Avenue, Jackson, MS 39202**

Telephone# 601.969.2141

FAX# 601.714.5701

# CALL FOR PROPOSALS: 2006 MAGC CONFERENCE

The conference will be held **September 28-29** at *The Regency Hotel and Conference Center, Jackson, Mississippi*. Completed proposals must be post marked no later than **June 30, 2006**. *You must be a member of MAGC to present*. Please update your membership before submitting. Note that the conference registration fee will be waived for only **one** presenter per session.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Institution Affiliation \_\_\_\_\_ Position/Job Title \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address \_\_\_\_\_  
(street) (city/state) (zip code)

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

The title of my proposed presentation is: \_\_\_\_\_

Below is a typed abstract (75 words or less) of the concurrent session I wish to present.

Co-presenter: \_\_\_\_\_ (Registration fee will **not** be waived.)

- |  |   | <i>CATEGORY for PRESENTATION</i> | <i>Intended AUDIENCE for</i> |
|--|---|----------------------------------|------------------------------|
|  |   | <i>PRESENTATION</i>              |                              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Social/emotional needs of gifted students<br><input type="checkbox"/> Differentiating curriculum and instruction<br><input type="checkbox"/> Creativity and/or the arts<br><input type="checkbox"/> Evaluating student progress<br><input type="checkbox"/> Special populations<br><input type="checkbox"/> Developing leadership<br><input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Elementary Teachers<br><input type="checkbox"/> Secondary Teachers<br><input type="checkbox"/> Parents of Gifted Children<br><input type="checkbox"/> Administrators and/or counselors<br><input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |                                  |                              |

**Executive Director:** Jean Prather  
900 Live Oak Dr., Clinton, MS 39056  
(601)924-0068 (601)624-4652  
jprather@jam.rr.com

**Elected Officers:**

**President:** Kate Brown  
1021 12 St. North, Columbus, MS 39701  
(662)329-7676 fax (662)329-7242  
kateb@muw.edu

**Secretary:** Shirley Hardman  
25 Ryan Circle, Long Beach, MS 39560  
(228)863-5183  
shardman@harrison.k12.ms.us

**Standing Committee Chairs:**

**Membership:** Carol Paola  
1513 Westward Dr., Gulfport, MS 39501  
(228)864-8520 fax (228)868-6448  
cwp1gab@aol.com

**Public Relations:** Kay Collins  
430 N. Church St., Tupelo, MS 38804  
(662)844-4549 (662)401-5396  
kgcollins@tupelo.k12.ms.us

**Supportive Funding:** Wendy Hunt  
7875 Idlebrook Cove, Southaven, MS 38671  
(662)342-7214 (662)280-7075  
wendyfoz@bellsouth.net

**Ad Hoc and Ex Officio:**

**Website:** Ann Caldwell  
1100 College St. MUW Box 1627, Columbus, MS 39701  
(662)329-8521 fax (662)328-4586  
abc@msms.k12.ms.us

**President-Elect:** Margaret Snider  
1007 Camdenmill Dr., Ridgeland, MS 39157  
(601)856-4655  
msnider@jackson.k12.ms.us

**Treasurer:** Pamela Pape  
143 Skyline Drive, Clinton, MS 39056  
(601)925-4580  
ppape@jackson.k12.ms.us

**Concepts Editor:** Lisa Saucier  
1120 Riverside Dr., Jackson, MS 39202  
(601)373-9401  
lsaucier@jackson.k12.ms.us

**Conference Co-Chair:** Joyce Youngblood  
60 53rd Street, Gulfport, MS 39507  
Jly1272@aol.com

**Affiliates:** Teresa Mosely  
317 Concord Dr., Clinton, MS 39056  
(601)924-4476 fax (601)973-8682  
tmosely@jackson.k12.ms.us

**NAGC Liason:** Dr. Bob Seney  
1100 College St., MUW-129, Columbus, MS 39701  
(662)329-7112  
Bseney@muw.edu

**Vice President:** Kenneth Griswold  
3063 Plantation Cr., Tupelo, MS 38804  
(662)841-0907  
kmggriswold@tupelo.k12.ms.us

**Past President:** Mary Webb  
1016 CR 342 New Albany, MS 38652  
(662)534-3307  
mwwebb@tupelo.k12.ms.us

**Advisory Board:** Suzanne Bean  
86 Big Tom Rd., Columbus, MS 39705  
(662)327-6905 Fax (662)329-8515  
sbean@muw.edu

**Staff Development:** Melissa Grantham  
69 Redbud Lane, Madison, MS 39110  
(601)853-2764 (601)879-3069  
Mgrantham@madison.k12.ms.us

**Ex Officio:** Dr. Conrad Castle  
MS Dept. of Education  
P.O. Box 771, Suite 306, Jackson, MS 39205  
(601)359-2586 fax (601)359-2040  
ccastle@mde.k12.ms.us

**MAGC**

P.O. Box 3545  
Jackson, MS 39207  
www.msms.k12.ms.us/MAGC

PRESORTED  
FIRST CLASS MAIL  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
JACKSON, MS  
PERMIT NO. 80