

MAGC Celebrates its Thirtieth Birthday!



State representative, Bryan Aldridge, joins MAGC in celebrating 30 years.

This year the Mississippi Association for Gifted Children was proud to celebrate its thirtieth birthday at the luncheon for its 2004 conference. The conference, held in October in Jackson, was a large success a wide range of sessions and activities covering the many aspects of gifted education. Among the highlights of the conference were the keynote address, given by Judy Galbraith, M. A., president and founder of Free Spirit Publishing and author of several books on the social and emotional needs of the gifted learner, break out sessions for gifted educators and professionals, Creativity Night for gifted educators featuring units designed for gifted learners by McGee-Keiser, and Family Night with sessions for parents, facilitated by Judy Galbraith, and sessions for kids facilitated by students from the MS School for Math & Science. The culmination luncheon was a celebration of MAGC's 30 years of service. Several students and adults were honored, including Primrose Mangilog, the winner of the 2004 Nicholas Gren Award, Connie Walker, the winner of the 2004 MAGC Advanced Degree in Gifted Education Grant Winner, Trequon Tate, Jessica Mitchell, and Porsha Jefferson, winners of 2004 MAGC

Summer Program Scholarships, and Gail Hammond, winner of the 2004 Frances A. Karnes Award for Excellence in Gifted Education. Congratulations once again to all of these honorees.

Preparations are underway for next year's MAGC Conference. The conference will be held in Olive Branch, Mississippi and will feature Dr. George Betts. Dr. Betts is a Professor of Special Education in the area of gifted and talented education at the Univ. of Northern Colorado. He has been a professor and director of the Center for the Education and Study of the Gifted, Talented, and Creative, as well as the director of the Summer Enrichment Program since 1978. Please make plans to attend to hear and learn from this outstanding contributor to the field of gifted education. You will also be able to participate in the many sessions, vendors, and activities that are a part of each of our annual conferences. Applications for conference lodging and a call for proposals are found later in this issue of Concepts.

For more information about
MAGC,
Visit our website:
[www.msms.k12.ms.us/
MAGC/index.htm](http://www.msms.k12.ms.us/MAGC/index.htm)

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From the Executive Director

Reflection is a wonderful thing. This is a strategy that you use with your students and we use in our daily lives. Since our annual conference in October, I have been reflecting on some of the highlights that had special meaning. First, it was great to see and speak to so many of you who have been involved in gifted education for a long time BUT it was also exciting to meet those of you who are new to the field. I trust you gleaned things from the different sessions that will be beneficial as you make plans for your students. I know I learned strategies from Judy Galbraith that will help me be a better "Nanny" to my six grandchildren.

Secondly, I was so pleased with the attendance at our session for parents and their interest in learning more about "parenting" but also their interest in being involved in MAGC. And from the sounds I heard from the activities for our gifted kids, I think the students from the Mississippi School for Math & Science certainly accomplished having them engaged and excited.

Thirdly, the awards ceremony on Friday was exceptionally meaningful. Having Dr. Karnes to help us celebrate 30 years for MAGC and 25 years for the Frances A. Karnes Center for Gifted Studies reminded us of the struggles we have been through to provide services and special programs for gifted children and youth and how important it is that we continue the fight for appropriate programs for them. Having Dr. Karnes present the first official Frances A. Karnes Award of Excellence to Gail Hammond was also heart warming since they have worked together in the field of gifted at both the state and national level. Congratulations Gail! Recognition of all the scholarship recipients and the

benefits these scholarships provide for students and teachers challenges us to raise more money for additional scholarships. Congratulations to Primrose Orante Mangilog, our 2004 Nicholas Green Award winner. It was very obvious from her application and speech she does indeed "make a difference in this world" with all the projects and activities she is involved in. And to you Primrose, we wish you the best with your dream to start a foundation to help children have a better life through education. You are a good role model for all of us.

In the days ahead the MAGC Board will be formulating plans for our legislative agenda for 2004-2005. As always, we will be working with the MS Department of Education appealing for full funding for all programs. It is going to be a long and hard battle to maintain, regroup and regain the level of funding needed to serve our gifted population. We can **not** do this alone! It is very important to get your parent groups formed and involved in this process. If you need information regarding forming an affiliate group, contact **Teresa Mosley** at tmosely@jackson.k12.ms.us. If you are interested in having someone speak to your group, please contact me.

Thank you for seeing the importance of being a part of MAGC. Please encourage your peers, parents, grandparents and friends to join with us as we all strive to provide an education that is truly appropriate for gifted and talented children and youth.

Jean C. Prather

MS Teachers of the Gifted Recognized Statewide and Nationally

Congratulations to Mandy Goldman of Lauderdale County and Amy Rogers of Purvis! These Mississippi teachers of the gifted were awarded the Miliken Family Foundation National Educator Awards. This award seeks to give outstanding educators both public and financial recognition in an effort to award their excellence and help to retain talented people to the challenge and adventure of teaching. Goldman and Rogers will both be awarded \$25,000 for this honor. For more information on the Miliken Family Foundation National Educator Awards, please visit their web site at <http://www.mff.org/mea/mea.taf>.

We would also like to congratulate Mss. Gail Hammond, a teacher of the gifted in Rankin County, for winning the 2004 Frances A. Karnes Award for Excellence in Gifted Education. This award is presented annually to an individual or group to recognize outstanding, creative contributions toward the advancement of gifted education. Congratulations to all of our winners.

From the MAGC President

On behalf of MAGC, I'd like to extend a personal invitation for you to share the exciting things happening in your classroom with other teachers and parents of gifted learners. Without a doubt, the most resounding comment on this year's conference evaluations was a call for more presentations by classroom teachers. The only way we can meet this need is if teachers, like you, submit conference presentation proposals. Like any practicing professional, teachers want to know what works for their colleagues and how they can adapt the ideas of others for success in their own classrooms. Please consider sharing your experience, creativity, and expertise with other teachers of the gifted in Olive Branch next year.

My goals as MAGC President this year are very simple: to increase teacher involvement in MAGC, to increase the number of parent affiliate groups, and to advocate for full funding for gifted programs. I don't know how many of you realize

the battle that Jean Prather and other MAGC members fought this year to ensure continued funding for gifted learners in Mississippi. We are very fortunate to have someone like Jean leading us in advocacy efforts to protect gifted education services. Please help MAGC recruit new teacher members and parent affiliate groups. Nothing is more powerful to the legislature than parents who are willing to stand up and demand an appropriate education for their children. We need to continue proactively seeking full funding for gifted education and that requires a strong, diverse, and active membership. There is a wealth of information available on the MAGC website: www.msms.k12.ms.us/MAGC.

We value your ideas, suggestions, and feedback. Please do not hesitate to contact me by e-mail with your questions, concerns, and comments at kateb@muw.edu.

Kate M. Brown

New Publications in Gifted Education

THE PRACTICAL STRATEGIES SERIES IN GIFTED EDUCATION

The academic and social emotional needs of gifted children and youth are the focus of a new series of books. The Practical Strategies Series in Gifted Education has been designed and edited by Dr. Frances A. Karnes and Dr. Kristen Stephens. Dr. Karnes is the director of the Frances A. Karnes Center for Gifted Studies at The University of Southern Mississippi. Dr. Stephens is the Coordinator of Education Outreach and Editor-in-Chief of the Duke Gifted Letter at Duke University. There are eight books in the mini-series written for teachers in regular classrooms and specialized programs for the gifted, pre-service teachers, and graduate students. The authors have focused on the busy classroom teachers and have produced timesaving introductions to the most important issues in gifted education. The series is published by Prufrock Press.

The topics in the mini-series are "Acceleration Strategies for Teaching Gifted Learners", "Curriculum Compacting", "Enrichment

Opportunities for Gifted Learners", "Independent Study", "Mentoring Gifted Students", "Questioning Strategies", "Social and Emotional Teaching Strategies", and "Using Media and Technology with Gifted Learners."

GRANDPARENTS GUIDE TO GIFTED CHILDREN

The first book published on grandparents and their gifted children has been co-authored by Dr. Frances A. Karnes, Dr. Jim Webb, Janet Grove, and A Stephen McDonald, president of the National Association of Estate Planners and Councils. The book entitled, Grandparents Guide to Gifted Children, includes information on the early signs of giftedness, special needs, and areas of concern pertaining to gifted children, and the unique roles of grandparents of these children.

Hugh Downs, the former 20/20 anchor and author of the book, Letter to a Grandson, endorsed the book with a statement, "This very useful guide shows that grandparents are often in a better position to recognize and nurture talent and precocity than parents. A valuable book."



The Bookshelf

By Dr. Bob Seney

I have long delighted in “You Can’t Take a Balloon Into the Metropolitan Museum” (1998, Dial Books) by the sister team of Jacqueline Preiss Weitzman and Robin Press Glasser. I have used and touted this book in several of my classes as an excellent and very creative example of a textless book AND as a great way to integrate art, art history, and art appreciation into the classroom. So you can imagine how pleased I was when our colleague Dr. Barbara Hunt showed me her copy of “You Can’t Take a Balloon Into the National Gallery” (2000, Dial Books). I, of course, had to order my own copy. Then my delight was tripled when I discovered that there was a third book “You Can’t Take a Balloon Into the Museum of Fine Arts (2002, Dial Books).

The scenarios of these three books are the same. They are visual tales of a young girl who visits the museums. As the titles suggest they visit the Metropolitan Museum in New York City, the National Gallery in Washington D.C. and the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston. In each book the little girl has a balloon. At the Metropolitan she finds that she cannot take her balloon into the museum, but the museum guard promises to take care of it. He ties it to the hand railing. It escapes and he runs after it. As it flies through the city, the city scenes are mirrored in the major art works that are being viewed in the museum.

In the second book, “You Can’t Take a Balloon Into the National Gallery,” our young heroine knows from her New York trip that she can’t take her balloon into the museum. But no problem, there is a young lady photographer at the entrance and she promises to take care of the balloon. Then through a quick sequence of events, a “gimmick” which becomes a special feature of this book, the balloon gets away and it, too, is off for a great adventure through the Washington D.C. Mall. Our photographer, of course, is in hot pursuit. As she runs after the balloon, she passes by many of the great monuments and buildings of the Mall. Inside the National Gallery, the girl, her brother, and their grandmother view great works of art that

are paralleled in the chase outside just like in the first book.

The sights of the National Mall are wonderfully presented and in some cases visited. For example, we follow the balloon up the 898 stairs of the Washington Monument only to see it fly off to join some great kites being flown on the Mall. The sisters have added sketches and drawings of thirty-two famous American heroes and historical characters through out the book. So part of the fun of this book, is to find and identify these individuals. The sisters have an identification list on the back end-pages, but with the titillating note that their list is not meant to be comprehensive. So there may be more characters to search for through out the book. Speaking of end-pages, on the front end-pages is a wonderful “map” of the Mall identifying all the buildings from the Capitol Building to the Lincoln Memorial. This in itself is worth taking on your next trip to Washington D.C.

I am not sure just how long I sat and looked and re-looked at this delightful book. Each time, I find something that I had missed before and I have slowly located almost all of the 32 characters. The sisters have really extended and expanded the concept which they introduced in their first book. I am sure that you will be pleased and tickled with Weitzman and Glasser’s wonderful sense of humor.

In the third book, “You Can’t Take a Balloon Into the Museum of Fine Arts,” we visit Boston’s prestigious Museum of Fine Arts and get a tour of historical Boston. This creative team of sisters has expanded on their theme. The scenario is much the same but there are some new additions and embellishments. On this trip, the little girl is with her little brother and *both* of her grandparents. Again, from experience, she knows that she cannot take her balloon into the museum but her little brother’s stuffed duck presents no problem. The solution is offered by the grandmother, who volunteers to stay outside with the balloon while the three tour the museum. While she is attempting to fold her map, you guessed it, the balloon gets free and off it goes on its own adventure through Boston. Grandmother, of course, takes off after the balloon. Following the formula of the other books, we find that her adventures and chase are paralleled by the art work that the other three are viewing in the museum.

In this book, the chase takes the more prominent position. Certainly, the art works are a major feature and they are listed at the back of the

book with appropriate notes, but the grandmother's adventures take center stage.

The balloon makes a quick trip through Fenway Park and we see the Boston Red Sox playing the New York Yankees. You sports fans know the significance of that with this year's playoff game for the American League Pennant. You see literature does mirror real life!

These amazing sisters have given us another wonderful book that can be enjoyed on so many levels. The details of the story, the details in the illustrations, the tour through both historical Boston and the Museum, finding 33 famous historical Bostonians throughout the book, and finally what happens to the balloon make for a fun visual reading

adventure. In the next to the last illustration, the puzzled expression of the grandfather as he looks at his wife and her celebrating crowd absolutely tops off this adventure.

Visually presented humor is one of the special marks of these books with their many details and twists. I think all three of these books are a must for the gifted classroom. Not only will your students find them fun, but they can be used to introduce great art, provide opportunities for creating wonderful narratives, and can be a spring board for research. These three books need a place in your classroom. I can almost guarantee happy learning consequences as they enjoy the "You Can't Take a Balloon" books. Happy Reading!

MAGC & MSMS: Working Together for Gifted Students

MAGC and MSMS, a couple of initials working extremely well together, spell success for certain academically able high school sophomores who live in Mississippi's 82 counties.

The Mississippi Association for Gifted Children (MAGC) members will serve on three committees involved in the selection of the fall, 2005, junior class at the Mississippi School of Mathematics and Science (MSMS) in Columbus.

"MSMS is very fortunate to have this partnership with MAGC," said Teresa Gammill, director for school advancement at MSMS. "Who better than its members to help us select the best and brightest in Mississippi to attend this one-of-a-kind school in our state?"

Prospective student essays and projects must be received by Friday, Feb. 18, and they will be

reviewed by the Application Committee on Saturday, Feb. 26, Gammill said.

The application teams include one MAGC member, one MSMS faculty member and one from PLUS (Parents Lending United Support).

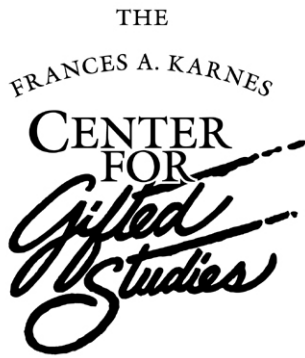
On Saturday, March 12, the Interview Committee teams, made up of MAGC and PLUS members, meets students on campus.

The Final Review Committee gathers Friday, April 1, on campus. It has five members: One each from MAGC, the MSMS faculty, PLUS, the MSMS counselors and MSMS alumni.

Created by the Mississippi Legislature in 1987, the Mississippi School for Mathematics and Science, started classwork in 1988 as a free, public residential school for gifted students on the campus of Mississippi University for Women in Columbus.

Thank you for supporting gifted children!

During the MAGC Conference in Jackson, MS, the Supportive Funding Committee raised over \$500 for student scholarships. Thank you for your generous donations and for your wonderful support. You made a difference!



Happenings at the Karnes Center

Leadership Studies Program – June 19-24, 2005

This one-week residential program, is designed for students in grades 6-11, who are recommended by school officials and who have a desire to develop and enhance their leadership abilities. Students will be housed in dormitories on the campus of The Univ. of Southern MS in Hattiesburg, MS. Tuition includes room, board, activities, and limited accident insurance. **Leadership I** is a program with specific emphasis on leadership skills. Training will include: fundamentals of leadership, written and oral communication, group dynamics, problem solving, planning, personal skills, and decision making. Avenues for becoming leaders in the school, community, and religious affiliation will be utilized to heighten the awareness and development of leadership potential. **Leadership II** is a continuation of the program, with Leadership I as a prerequisite for entry. It is an intense study to further develop leadership concepts and qualities. Emphasis is placed on the psychology of leadership, assertiveness training, and situational leadership. **Leadership III** is an extension of the program, with Leadership II as a prerequisite for entry. Training will focus on the legal aspects of leadership, responsibilities of various positions of leadership, developing personal power, and leadership for the future. The students also have the opportunity for informal interaction with adult leaders. Financial aid is available based on need on a limited basis.

Summer Gifted Studies Program – June 26 – July 1, 2005

This one-week residential program, is designed for intellectually gifted students in grades 4 through 8 with intelligence quotients of 120 or above on an individually administered test or the 90th percentile or above at the national level on an achievement test. The program enhances the cognitive abilities of gifted students through planned enrichment/acceleration activities. Content areas are combined with processing skills to enable students to explore a wide variety of topics. Students will be housed in dormitories on the campus of The Univ. of Southern MS in Hattiesburg. Instructional activities will be conducted in classrooms and laboratories on the campus. Recreational activities and cultural events will be included, based upon availability. Tuition includes room, board, recreational and cultural activities, and limited accident insurance. Financial aid is available based on need on a limited basis.

Summer Program for Academically Talented Youth – July 10-29, 2005

This three-week residential program is designed for students in grades 7 through 10 who qualify based on SAT or ACT results. A variety of intensive, fast-paced courses will be offered, such as pre-calculus mathematics; physics; anatomy/physiology; marine biology; forensic science; polymer science; psychology; creative writing; Southern writers and literature; debate; public speaking; mythology; journalism; genetics; human geography; and foreign languages. The program is designed to include appropriate academic, cultural, and recreational experiences. The Univ. of Southern MS offers the program through cooperative efforts with the Duke University Talent Identification Program. Tuition includes the instructional program, books, room and board, recreational activities, and limited accident insurance. Financial aid is available based on need on a limited basis.

Teacher Education Programs

Specific training for teachers is offered to those needing certification in the area of gifted education. Advanced degree programs with an emphasis in gifted education are provided at the master's, specialist's, and doctoral levels.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT

Dr. Frances A. Karnes

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

E-mail: gifted.studies@usm.edu

<http://www.usm.edu/gifted>

MSMS SEAL Club Cleans up Tennessee-Tombigbee River

By: Elizabeth Wayne

The Tennessee- Tombigbee waterway is a diverse ecosystem, housing a community of plants, birds, and small animals along its sinewy path. Unfortunately, it also houses lots of trash.

On September 11, the MSMS SEAL (Student Environmental Awareness League) Club takes a day out to pick up trash on the river in efforts that they hope will lead to a cleaner, healthier Tombigbee.

The students began early Saturday morning at 8:15 a.m. After receiving a lesson on water safety from a park ranger, the twenty-four students along with SEAL sponsor Dr. Odom and Mr. Bill Winters, separated into teams and went to work.

In the five-mile radius the students covered, they picked sixteen thirty-gallon bags of trash. They found an assortment of things from Styrofoam cups, to scraps of metal, tons of beer bottles and interestingly enough, a bottle filled with tobacco spit. Most of the trash the students found, however, was recyclable.

As a bonus, Dr. Odom, also a biology teacher at MSMS gave lessons about specific species of plants and animals as they walked along the river, teaching students first-hand, the importance of protecting the environment.

The idea for the river clean-up came from Mr. Bill Winters, the Coordinator for School Support at MSMS. Support also came from Randy Comer at the US Army Corps of Engineers and from Joe Candelaria from CAB MWR.

This year, the MSMS SEAL Club plans to spread their message of environmental awareness to the community. "We hope to collaborate with local schools and especially elementary children because they hold the fate of the world. Environmental concern shouldn't end with us," Willow Nero, president of the MSMS SEAL Club, says. Eventually, the SEAL Club plans to place paper and can recycling bins in city buildings as they already have in MSMS and some MUW facilities.

Join Mississippi Association for Gifted Children Today!

MAGC is an organization that works tirelessly to ensure that Mississippi's gifted students get the education that they deserve and is their right. There is power in numbers. By joining MAGC you help in the fight to make sure that our most able learners receive a quality education that is appropriate to their needs and talents. Please join with us so together we can continue to fight for the rights of this population.

Yes, I want to become a member of MAGC, with a membership that is effective immediately and expires on December 31, 2005.

Check One: New Member Membership Renewal

Name _____ School District _____

Home Phone _____ Work Phone _____

Preferred Address: _____
(street)

(city)

(state)

(ZIP)

E-mail Address _____ County _____

Enclose Membership Fee of \$25.00. Checks should be made payable to MAGC.

Mail membership form and membership fee to:

Carol Paola, Membership Chairperson
1513 Westward Drive Gulfport, MS 39501

Acceleration in Schools: A Call to Action

Study firmly debunks the “one size fits all” practice in K-12

September 20, 2004: Washington, D.C.

Student readiness to learn is a better barometer than age when determining how quickly students should move through their studies. Released today, “***A Nation Deceived***,” funded by the Templeton Foundation of Radnor, Pennsylvania, confirms that in order to meet the needs of advanced learners, educators must abandon the notion that a student’s grade and curricula be based solely on chronological age instead of readiness.

Fifty years of longitudinal data suggests that acceleration is one of the most effective curriculum interventions for many high-ability learners. The report, endorsed by the National Association for Gifted Children (NAGC), was compiled and analyzed by three veteran researchers at the Belin-Blank International Center for Gifted Education and Talent Development at the University of Iowa. It presents irrefutable evidence that acceleration has a positive impact on many high-ability students both socially and academically. Past assumptions by school administrators, principals, and policy makers about the perceived negative affects of acceleration are handily struck down in this study.

“This report confirms that acceleration strategies are appropriate for advanced students in virtually every learning setting. Concerns about an accelerated student’s social or emotional well being are unfounded. The time has come to release the bonds that hold gifted learners back.” Said NAGC’s President, F. Richard Olenchak, Ph.D., PC.

Indeed, the research shows that when gifted and talented students remain in lock step with their age peers rather than moving ahead at an appropriate pace, the results are: boredom, poor study habits, underachievement, and behavior problems.

To avoid these pitfalls, NAGC urges every school district and every state to adopt a comprehensive acceleration policy --- one that matches appropriate learning opportunities to student readiness at each stage of the student’s development. These strategies would include multiple curricular options such as: grade-skipping -- the most well-known acceleration strategy ; early entrance to kindergarten; early exit from school based on proficiency; acceleration of a specific subject (e.g.; 5th grader taking algebra); dual enrollment in high school and college; and curriculum “compacting” (compressing the curriculum to eliminate the repetition of work that has already been mastered)

“We face administrative and policy obstacles in many states and districts that impede implementation of acceleration strategies. The price we are paying is a slow, but steady, erosion of American excellence,” added Dr. Olenchak.

The full report can be obtained at <http://NationDeceived.org>.

The National Association for Gifted Children (NAGC) is the largest national organization dedicated to meeting the needs of the more than three million gifted and talented students in the U.S. www.nagc.org

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About the Belin-Blank Center: The Connie Belin & Jacqueline N. Blank International Center for Gifted Education and Talent Development was established at The University of Iowa by the State of Iowa Board of Regents in June 1988. The Belin Center is one of the few centers that has an endowed chair in gifted education. In its brief history, the Belin-Blank Center has demonstrated remarkable growth and has established a national reputation for its research, training, and service. www.uiowa.edu/~belinctr/

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About the John Templeton Foundation: The mission of the John Templeton Foundation is to pursue new insights at the boundary between theology and science through a rigorous, open-minded and empirically focused methodology, drawing together talented representatives from a wide spectrum of fields of expertise. www.templeton.org

CALL FOR PROPOSALS: 2005 MAGC CONFERENCE

The conference will be held **September 29-30** at *Whispering Woods Conference Center, Olive Branch* (north Mississippi). Completed proposals must be post marked no later than **April 30, 2005**. 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)

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.)

CATEGORY for PRESENTATION

- ___ Social/emotional needs of gifted students
- ___ Differentiating curriculum and instruction
- ___ Creativity and/or the arts
- ___ Evaluating student progress
- ___ Special populations
- ___ Developing leadership
- ___ Other _____

Intended AUDIENCE for PRESENTATION

- ___ Elementary Teachers
- ___ Secondary Teachers
- ___ Parents of Gifted Children
- ___ Administrators and/or counselors
- ___ Other _____

Mail form to: *Margaret Snider, 1007 Camdenmill, Ridgeland, MS 39157 (601) 856-4655*

Photocopy and distribute this form as needed.

Mississippi Association for Gifted Children
Summer Gifted Studies Program Scholarship Nomination Form
(Deadline: March 15, 2005)

Nominee's Name: _____
(Prior MAGC scholarship recipients are not eligible to receive this award)

Address: _____

Nominating Teacher: _____ School: _____

School Address: _____

Grade: _____ Age: _____ Program Choice: _____
(Must be a Mississippi program)

Signature of Nominee: _____

To the Nominating Teacher:

Please include the following information with this nomination form:

1. A narrative describing student's special interests, school and community involvement, honors, and your reasons for nominating this student;
2. A copy of the student's G.P.P.D.S. verifying eligibility; and
3. A narrative from the student stating his/her areas of interest and choice of program if awarded the scholarship.
4. Additional letters of support may be included.

Please mail completed nomination form and other required attachments to:

Ann Caldwell
1100 College Street MUW-540
Columbus, MS 39701

Thank you for taking advantage of this opportunity for your student.

**2005 Conference Lodging Reservation Form
Whispering Woods Hotel and Conference Center**

Mississippi Association for Gifted Children

September 28-30, 2005

To receive the special conference rate, this form must be received by September 7, 2005.

Any housing request received after this date will be accepted at the regular rate, based on availability.

Name _____

Group _____

Address _____

City/State/ZIP _____

Telephone _____ email _____

MAGC Group Rate: \$89.00 per room per night – single /double occupancy
(All rates subject to 9% 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 12:00 noon.

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

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: Whispering Woods Hotel and Conference Center,
Attn: Audrey Higgins, 11200 E. Goodman Road, Olive Branch, MS, 38654
662-895-2941 ext.177 or 358 FAX 662-895-1590 E-MAIL: audrey.higgins@ichotelsgroup.com**

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
Kbrown@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: Kenneth Griswold
3063 Plantation Circle Tupelo, MS 38804
662-841-0907
kmggriswold@tupelo.k12.ms.us

Supportive Funding: Wendy Hunt
7875 Idlebrook Cove, Southaven, MS 38671
662-342-7214 662-280-7075
wendyfoz@netscape.com

AD HOC and EX OFFICIO:

Website: Jane Everly
2930 McDowell Rd. Ext., Jackson, MS 39212
601-371-4300 FAX 601-371-4372
jeverly@jackson.k12.ms.us

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

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

Newsletter: Lisa D. Saucier
1120 Riverside Drive Jackson, MS 39202
601-373-9401
lsaucier@jackson.k12.ms.us

Legislative: Kay Collins
430 N. Church St. Tupelo, MS 38804
662-844-4549 662-401-5396
kcollins@tupelo.k12.ms.us

Affiliates: Teresa Mosley
317 Concord Dr., Clinton, MS 39056
601-924-4476 FAX 601-973-8682
zackdog@bellsouth.net tmosely@jackson.k12.ms.us

Diverse Populations Identification:
Leigh Adkins Todd
Rt. 1, Box 359, West Point, MS 39773
662-494-7149
leightodd@hotmail.com

Vice President: Anne Caldwell
1100 College St. MUW Box 1627, Columbus, MS 39701
662-329-8521 FAX 662-328-4586
abc@msms.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 Road 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
mpgmsfppsp@juno.com
mgrantham@madison.k12.ms.us

Ex Officio: Dr. Conrad Castle
MS Department 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