

Talented Times

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Issue #50

For Parents & Educators of the Gifted & Talented

The "Emerging" View of Intelligence (and Its Implications for Gifted Advocates)

by Steve Schroeder-Davis

"-Greatness isn't born, it's grown" (from the cover of *The Talent Code*, by Daniel Coyle)

"-*Talent is Overrated*" by Geoff Colvin

"-Smart is not something you are. Smart is something you get" (Efficacy Institute)

"All students will attain world class standards" (various Standards Movement literature, and with slight variations, many district mission statements)

In the past three years, at least four significant books have been written about the nature of extraordinary achievement: the two cited above (Coyle's in 2009, Colvin's in 2008), along with *Mindset*, by Carol Dweck in 2006, and *Outliers*, by Malcolm Gladwell in 2008. This article will explore each of these books and their potential cumulative impact to try to determine whether they represent or could generate a "tipping point" in the culture's view of talent development, and what implications such a tip might have for advocates of gifted students.

A cursory reading of the four books could allow the inference that "Greatness (aptitude) isn't born, it's grown," as *The Talent Code* asserts, which would seem to negate inherited differences in human potential and could call to question the need for gifted programs and services, much as the tagline for the Efficacy Institute appears to do. The Fordham (2008) study, documenting years of "languid growth" (go to www.edexcellence.net/template/index.cfm and then to "publications") has already demonstrated the injurious effects NCLB (No Child Left Behind) has had on gifted students, and with the current economic situation compromising district budgets, the last thing we need are authors calling into question the very idea of giftedness. But do the four books noted above *actually* deny inborn differences in human capacity? Let's look at each title in order of publication.

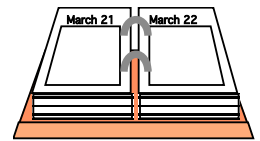
Mindset is a powerful book by Professor Carol Dweck, whose research has established the importance of developing a "growth" rather than a "fixed" mindset. In summary, individuals with a growth mindset welcome challenge, view mistakes as opportunities to learn, and are dedicated to *developing* their skills. Those with the fixed mindset avoid challenge, view mistakes as failures, and are dedicated to *demonstrating* their intelligence. Her research has many important implications and applications to our field, and I would recommend that all parents and educators read her book.

In Chapter One, Dweck asks the question, "Why do people differ?" She offers a brief history of the "nature vs. nurture" argument, and then states on page 5: "Of course, each person has a unique genetic endowment." The book then details the many ways in which the two mindsets impact the development of expertise in various fields, while recognizing from the outset that aptitude and potential exist and are significant.

In *Talent is Overrated*, author Colvin attempts, unsuccessfully, in my view, to negate "natural talents" (giftedness). He states on the book jacket, "The trouble is, scientific evidence doesn't support the notion that specific natural talents make great performers-and such talents may not even exist." Once the reader has sorted through the disclaimers and concept parsing (for example, note the quote above states that natural talent doesn't *necessarily* result in great performance-in other words, some people underachieve!), or simply chooses to ignore them, what's left are some very powerful and useful ideas, all of which are valuable to our field, regardless of the author's mistaken premise. The most powerful of these ideas include

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UPCOMING EVENTS IN 2009



Oct 24 MCGT Fall Conference. The University of St. Thomas will host the Minnesota Council for the Gifted and Talented annual fall conference at their Minneapolis campus. Jean Sunde Peterson will be keynote speaker. See center pages for more information

Nov 5-8 NAGC (National Association for Gifted Children) Annual Convention. St. Louis, Missouri will host the 2009 national convention. For more information go to www.nagc.org

Jan 2010 Saturday workshop or seminar on Perfectionism. Sponsored by MCGT. Presented by Tom Greenspon, psychologist and author. Date and location to be determined.

Feb 4 MCGT CHAT Night. 7:00-8:30 at Ridgewater College - Hutchinson Campus. Hosted by the Crow River Region Chapter. Topic: Identification of Gifted Children.

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the vital importance of *deliberate* practice, hard work, and the role of passion in the development of expertise.

Outliers, by Malcolm Gladwell, also author of *The Tipping Point* and *Blink*, is a fascinating and ultimately inspiring look at how environment, luck, mentors, and the "10,000 hour rule" (10,000 hours of deliberate practice) combine to support great achievement. At no time does Gladwell deny the existence of natural gifts, but he does assert the primacy of those 10,000 hours of hard work in the development of true expertise. He offers many examples, but I will focus on one, as it is within my area of expertise: the Beatles. Rather than deny their natural talents, or the synergy that existed between the Fab Four, Gladwell emphasizes what he calls the "Hamburg Crucible," the approximately 1,200 live performances they gave during their formative years playing in Germany.

He and other authors, as well as the Beatles themselves, have alluded to how critical those hours were in helping develop their musical skill. The Beatles became the *greatest band ever* (in my humble opinion) through enormous talent *and lots of hard work*. Dozens of bands many probably have never heard of - Rory and the Hurricanes, for example - Were doing the exact same thing in Hamburg at the exact same time, and they did not become the Beatles. Nor did any of them write a prescient song like "When I'm 64" at the age of 16, as McCartney did.

So clearly, the talent development equation, as Francoys Gagne' offered in his talent development model nearly 15 years ago is: *Aptitude* + Hard Work + Environment + Chance = Performance. For the Beatles to become the preeminent rock band of all-time their inherent gifts had to be present; otherwise, all of the bands playing in Hamburg should have gained their level of expertise. In *The Talent Code*, Daniel Coyle offers this fascinating definition of skill (talent development): "Skill = myelin insulation that wraps neural circuits and grows in response to certain signals." Myelin is the biological outcome of the three factors he describes in his book to explain expertise: deep practice, ignition, and master coaching, where "deep practice" is those 10,000 hours, "ignition" is motivation, and "master coaching" is developmental support. Coyle's premise is that these "three key elements ... will allow you to develop your gifts and optimize your performance."

Various individuals have cited these four books as arguments for reducing or eliminating gifted services and programs; however, after reading them myself, I would suggest they strongly support specialized services for gifted students. I will quote a key passage directly from each book to demonstrate:

- "Deliberate practice is difficult. It hurts." (*Talent is Overrated*)
- "Those with the growth mindset found setbacks motivating. They're a wake-up call." (*Mindset*)
- "Deep practice ... takes events we would normally strive to avoid-namely, mistakes-and turns them into skills." (*The Talent Code*)
- "The Beatles are undeniably talented. Lennon and McCartney had a musical gift of the sort that comes along once in a generation." (*Outliers*)

The first three quotes make clear that in order to optimize individual gifts and develop talent, challenge and very hard work are vital. The fourth quote makes obvious the fact that the "Hamburg Crucible" was a key catalyst for the Beatles, but that their inherent, undeniable *giftedness* was necessary to convert those hours of practice into the transformative group they became. In other words, to deny what Gagne' calls "untrained natural ability" (giftedness) ignores overwhelming biological evidence as well as daily confirmation we all see in our own children and students.

If we then grant the obvious differences in heritable capacity, how are our gifted students to experience challenge, "failure," mistakes, or difficulty if the curriculum is not designed to stretch them? The recipe for talent development requires that the individual experiences 10,000 hour of deliberate practice that:

- Is specifically designed to improve performance
- Provides continuous feedback
- Is highly demanding mentally
- Transcends automaticity
- Requires being "over-matched" (challenged)

We know that at-level material is too easy for gifted and talented students, and that it is difficult for teachers to differentiate sufficiently to address the needs of these students in the "regular" classroom. We also know that NCLB is exclusively focused on underachievers.

Therefore, the only logical conclusion I can reach from these four books is that in order to develop optimally, all students need to be stretched beyond their comfort zone, a conclusion which demands specialized services for the gifted.

(Dr. Schroeder-Davis taught middle school for 25 years before becoming a curriculum specialist in the Elk River School District. He designed the Saint Mary's Gifted Certification Program and teaches graduate courses for Saint Mary's and Concordia Universities. He is the parent of three gifted children, past president of MCGT, and a proud recipient of the "Friend of the Gifted" award from both the MCGT and MEGT [MN Educators of Gifted and Talented].)

This article is copied from the September/October 2009 issue (vol. 32, no. 4) of *Outlook*, a Minnesota Council for the Gifted and Talented publication.

Dr. Schroeder-Davis will presenting two sessions, "Isn't Everyone Gifted? Is Anyone Gifted?" and "What Middle Schools Should Do – and Be – for Gifted Kids," at the MCGT Conference on October 24, 2009.

MINNESOTA COUNCIL FOR THE GIFTED AND TALENTED ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Theme: "On Behalf of Gifted Kids..."

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2009

Terrence Murphy and Opus Halls, University of St. Thomas - Minneapolis Campus

The Day's Schedule

- 8:30 - 9:00 Check-in and get program
- 9:00 - 12:00 Children's morning session
- 9:00 - 10:30 Welcome, MCGT Friend of the Gifted Award, and Keynote Address by Jean Sunde Peterson, "A Counselor's Perspective on Parenting Gifted Kids"
- 10:45 - 11:45 Adult breakout session - I
- 11:45 - 1:00 Lunch for adults and kids
- 1:00 - 4:00 Children's afternoon session
- 1:00 - 1:20 MCGT Annual Meeting
- 1:30 - 2:30 Adult breakout session - II
- 2:45 - 3:45 Adult breakout session - III
- 4:10 - 4:30 Book Swap session for kids
- All day Vendors & information

Host and co-sponsor: The University of St. Thomas School of Education, Graduate Program for Gifted Studies

Where: Terrence Murphy and Opus Halls, University of St. Thomas, Minneapolis campus

Children's Program: Open only to children of registered adults who attend the conference. Kids in kindergarten through 7th grade must pre-register. They will choose a morning and an afternoon class led by experienced teachers - course descriptions inside. There are no facilities for children younger than kindergarten. Older kids may register to attend adult sessions or sign up to be volunteers in various areas of the conference (including assisting teachers in one of the kids' classes or helping set up and clean up). Contact Shari at crowriver@mcgt.net for more information on volunteer opportunities at the conference.

Lunch: All will eat together in "Food for Thought." Please mark lunch choices on the registration form.

Vendors: Center for Talent Development at Northwestern University and Northwestern University Midwest Academic Talent Search, Concordia Language Villages, Free Spirit Publishing, Friedrichs Education, Great Potential Press, Hickory Grove Press, Hilaria and Ludi Games, Minnesota College Savings Plan, National Association for Gifted Children, Pieces of Learning, Prufrock Press, Thinking to Learn, Usborne Books, and more. (Some vendors will not be able to take credit card orders.)

Information and Catalogs: Destination Imagination, Educational Impressions, Intermediate District 287, Mensa, Mindware, Minnesota Academic Excellence Foundation, MCGT Homeschoolers Chapter, National Association for Gifted Children, University of St. Thomas College of Education, and more.

Cost: \$55 for members, \$70 for non-members (but pay the member rate if you join with your registration), \$25 for second adult in the same family and \$35 for each child in kindergarten through seventh grade whose parent(s) or guardian is attending the Conference. The fee includes lunch and snack. No credit cards accepted.

Incentive for early registration: If you register by Oct. 2 (postmark) you are entitled to pick up on the day of the conference a set of 12 "Frequently Asked Questions" brochures (National Association for Gifted Children publications) or a coupon for \$2.00 off a purchase made at the MCGT table.



1. Minneapolis School of Law
2. Terrence Murphy Hall
3. Opus Hall
4. Parking at 11th Street and Harmon Place
5. Schulze Hall

FROM THE WEST: I-394 East to I-394 Downtown Exit to 12th St. North (exit 9A); to Harmon Place; turn left (west) on 11th St. The parking ramp entrance will be on your left.

FROM THE NORTHWEST: I-94 East to Downtown Exit to 4th St; take Fourth St. to First Ave; turn right on First Ave. to 10th St; turn left on 10th St. to Harmon Place; turn right on 11th St. The parking ramp entrance will be on your left.

FROM THE EAST: I-94 West to 11th Street Exit (exit 233A); turn left. West on 11th Street to Harmon Place (two blocks past Nicollet Mall). Cross intersection. Parking Ramp entrance will be on your left.

FROM THE SOUTH: I-35W North to Downtown Exits to 11th St./Grant St. Exit (exit 16A); turn left. West on 11th St. to Harmon Place (two blocks past Nicollet Mall). Cross intersection. Parking entrance on left.

FROM THE NORTH: I-35W South to West I-94 to 11th St. Exit. West on 11th St. to Harmon Place. Cross intersection. Parking Ramp entrance will be on the left.

Kids Program Course Descriptions

Morning (9:00 - 12:00 noon)

Kindergarten - Second grade

A101 Puzzlers, Towers, and Tangrams! Solve all types of puzzles! Think ahead! Play strategy games. Build strong shapes to turn into towers that touch the ceiling. You'll need to come to class with your mind ready for calculations and challenges. *Instructor:* Melissa Engle taught gifted and talented with Minneapolis Public Schools, Grades 1-5. She's taught at West Suburban Summer School for 10 years, and is Nationally Board Certified.

A102 Play in Performing! See the description for P112.

A103 Passports, please... Travelers, get ready! Have your MIC passport stamped as you "tour" to try out new languages, dances, games, and other activities from Nepal and two other countries from around the globe. *Instructors:* Education Program Manager at the Minnesota International Center (MIC) and international students/scholars and professionals who are experienced in giving presentations to children.

Third - Fourth grade

A201 Welcome to the Magical World of Harry Potter! *This is an all-day class. Sign up for both A201 and P211. See the description for P211.*

A202 Water Wonders H-two-O is pretty special stuff in our bodies and the rest of the world. We'll make it even stretchier, cleaner, and more colorful. We'll investigate the chemical, physical, and artful properties of water. Come get wet with us! (no swimwear required) *Instructor:* Jane Snell Copes has taught for the MN Institute for Talented Youth for Your Extraordinary Saturday programs in 2008 and 2009, and also for ExplorSchool in June 2009. She's frequently taught classes for the North St. Paul COMET program, bringing together high-potential 4th and 5th grade students at the Science Museum of Minnesota. Her whole job is having fun with science!

A203 Roller Coaster Ride Science See the description for P213.

A204 Draw! Serengeti Animals & Famous World

Landmarks Lions, giraffes, zebras and elephants are just a few of the creatures that inhabit the Serengeti. On our "safari" we'll study and learn to draw the anatomy of these interesting creatures. Then take a trip around the globe to explore some of the world's most popular landmarks. Choose your favorite and learn a drawing method that will allow you to replicate this famous structure using a right-brain drawing technique! *Instructor:* Kris Holtmeyer owns and operates Artistic Moments, an on-site art business geared towards the artistic instructional needs of all ages. She has taught classes in Academic Year program, West Suburban Summer School and MCGT state conferences.

Fifth - Seventh grade

A301 Creating your own reality! See the description for P311.

A302 Crash Test Cars Design and build your own crash test car using hot glue, wheels and your imagination, and then race this model on a test ramp. A wild variety of silly material is available to match your great ideas. Calculate the speed and degree of fun this session has in mind for you. *Instructor:* Jef Pokorney is an inventor who teaches the art and science of invention. He has presented sessions at European Creativity Conferences, American Creativity Conferences, MCGT, Mensa and CPSI. His favorite invention is a totally clear canoe. He has a degree in Art and in Electronics and a Post-Bachelorette in Education and a Creativity Certificate from the University of St. Thomas. Playing with combinations of unique materials is one of his joyful hobbies.

A303 Building Alien Worlds *This is an all-day class. Sign up for both A303 and P313.* Tired of Star Wars, Star Trek, and endless video games that do the same old thing? Why not create your OWN universe complete with stars, galaxies, planets, life forms...and INTELLIGENT ALIENS -- do all that and more in this class! *Instructor:* Guy Stewart has been teaching ninth grade science in the International Baccalaureate program at Cooper High School for the past seven years. He's led hundreds of students in creating Alien Worlds for West Suburban Summer School for the past ten years. He is a well-published science fiction writer as well.

Afternoon (1:00 - 4:00 p.m.)

Kindergarten - Second grade

P111 Puzzlers, Towers, and Tangrams! See the description for A101.

P112 Play in Performing! Make funny noises and value the art of playing pretend! Using acting games and exercises that anyone can do, learn the craft of playfulness and imagination, and gain confidence along the way. Discover that when you see a play or a favorite movie, the secrets to acting are just imagination and confidence. *Instructor:* Damon Brook has worked professionally as an actor for in the Twin Cities for four years after training at the BFA in acting program at the University of Minnesota Duluth. He's coached high school speech performance at Eagan High School for the last four years. Damon has also worked extensively with K-5 students as an acting teacher and in after school programming.

P113 Aboriginal Dot Painting Did you know that the native Aborigines use art to communicate and tell stories about their dreams? Join us for a fun adventure to Australia! Listen to Aboriginal music and learn the history of Aboriginal Dot Painting. Choose an animal template to begin your project. Apply acrylic paint to your dream image by using a dot application technique. Add additional patterns of dots to the outer areas of the picture to design an eye-catching composition. Artwork will be mounted on a simple mat for display purposes. *An art shirt is advised. *Instructor:* Kris Holtmeyer owns and operates Artistic Moments, a Minneapolis-based on-site art business geared towards the artistic instructional needs of all ages. She has taught classes in Academic Year program, West Suburban Summer School and MCGT state conferences.

Third - Fourth grade

P211 Welcome to the Magical World of Harry Potter! *This is an all-day class. Sign up for both A201 and P211.* As students of the Hogwart's School of Witchcraft and Wizardry, you will search for all seven of Voldemort's Horcruxes and attempt to capture them. You'll wander to your potions lesson. During the day you will create your own wand and design magical personal pets with special powers, plus numerous other activities from your packets. Pass invisible notes to your Hogwart's friends. Play a version of Exploding Snap. Don't become the subject of a screaming howler! Come join Muggles and Wizards for a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to participate in Hogwart's School! *Instructors:* Linda Fullerton is an elementary school educator in the Eden Prairie Schools having taught first, second and multi-age first and second grade students. Tammy Huston has been substitute teaching in the Eden Prairie School district for the past four years. She teaches several community education classes as well as summer school. Linda and Tammy have presented to children at both MCGT state conferences and the national NAGC conference.

P212 Water Wonders See the description for A202.

P213 Roller Coaster Ride Science After experimenting with laws of motion, you will join a team of young engineers (your classmates) to design and build roller coasters for marbles, including banked turns, helixes, corkscrews, and loops. Join the fun! *Instructor:* John Foty has a Master's degree in Gifted/ Talented Education and over 15 years of gifted teaching experience. Presently, Mr. Foty is teaching fourth graders in Osseo Area Schools. He loves to incorporate designing, building, and other creative activities into his teaching. He has taught in West Suburban Summer School since 1989.

P214 Crash Test Cars See the description for A302.

Fifth - Seventh grade

P311 Creating your own reality! You can be a wizard, a dragon, a prince, or a pirate. Present yourself as masterful at mixing potions, breathing fire, ruling a kingdom, or sailing the high seas. Anything is possible in improvisational theatre. Students will create characters, learn multiple improv techniques, and engage in teamwork to build scenes with one another. This drama workshop will increase students' awareness of themselves and others, develop their concentration and focus, and provide an opportunity for individual and group problem solving. So, bring your imagination, challenge yourself to take creative risks, and explore the exciting world of unscripted theatre! *Instructor:* Jo Vetter is a professional actor and director. She has been a drama educator for over 20 years. Her students have won numerous awards and performed internationally, including an acclaimed production at the Edinburgh Theatre Festival Fringe in Scotland.

P312 A Taste of Calligraphy Using a broad-edge pen and ink, learn a basic foundational alphabet in the "beautiful writing" of calligraphy (from the Greek words, "kallos" and "graphos"). At the end of the class, you'll take home master sheets to guide you as you practice this creative art on your own. With calligraphy, you can design your own cards and posters, launching into learning more about beautiful letterforms. *Instructor:* Janey Westin is a professional calligrapher and a stone letter carver and sculptor. She has taught those arts in West Suburban Summer School.

P313 Building Alien Worlds *This is an all-day class. Sign up for both A303 and P313. See the description for A303.*

Registration Form

ADULT REGISTRATION

- √ Each participant must register, using one registration form per family.
- √ Those who are not members of MCGT, or whose membership has expired, may join when they register.
- √ Check out some of the Adult session titles on back.
- √ Indicate lunch preferences.
- √ Registration deadline is October 13, 2009.

STUDENT REGISTRATION

- √ Every child must register and attend with parent or guardian who is registered for the conference. Postcards will be sent on October 18th to confirm each child's class choices.
- √ Registrations with postmarks of October 2 or earlier will be considered first-day registrations and given equal consideration for class choices. Postmarks will determine placements after that until classes are filled.
- √ There are no facilities for children under kindergarten age.
- √ Indicate lunch preferences.
- √ Registration deadline is October 13, 2009.

Name _____ Phone (home) (_____) _____

Address _____ (work or cell) (_____) _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ School District _____

e-mail _____

Name of second adult in the same family attending the conference

Note any special considerations for adult(s) or child(ren) _____

Check if you are a presenter ____ or a volunteer ____

Lunch Choices

Please indicate a sandwich or pizza and beverage choice for each registered adult and child.

All sandwich lunches come with a bag of chips and cookie. All pizza comes with a cookie.

Sandwich:

- _____ Turkey, Provolone, Lettuce and Tomato on Multi-Grain Bread
- _____ Ham, Swiss, Lettuce and Tomatoes on Ciabatta
- _____ Vegetarian Wrap: Hummus, Roasted Peppers, Tomatoes, Cucumbers and Spinach Leaves Rolled in a Tortilla Wrap

Pizza:

- _____ Cheese Pizza (1/4 large pizza)
- _____ Pepperoni Pizza (1/4 large pizza)

Beverage:

- _____ Soda
- _____ Milk
- _____ Non-carbonated spring water

<u>Children's Name(s)</u>	<u>m/f</u>	<u>Grade</u>	Enter the course numbers of each child's choices.						
			<u>Morning Choices</u>			<u>Afternoon Choices</u>			
			1st	2nd	3rd	1st	2nd	3rd	
Child #1 _____									
Child #2 _____									
Child #3 _____									<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

I release MCGT, University of St. Thomas and Conference participants of any liability for injuries or damages incurred to myself/child/spouse while participating in the 2009 MCGT Conference.

Signature _____ Date _____

Fees Enclosed

- Adult member - \$55 \$ _____
- Nonmember - \$70 \$ _____
- Second adult in the family - \$25 \$ _____
- MCGT membership fee - \$35/year or \$65/2 years
- (__new __renewal) Chapter _____ \$ _____
- 2nd Chapter _____ \$16/yr \$ _____
- NAGC Parent Membership @ \$10
- (must also be a member of MCGT) \$ _____
- Number of children ____ x \$35 = \$ _____
- Checks Only Please _____ TOTAL \$ _____



Make checks payable to and send to:
 MN Council for the Gifted & Talented
 5701 Normandale Rd., Suite 315
 Edina, MN 55424

Keynote: A Counselor's Perspective on Parenting Gifted Kids

Dr. Peterson will offer perspectives related to parenting, based on her extensive work as a counselor of gifted children, adolescents, and adults. Giftedness can be both boon and bane, asset and burden, comfortable and uncomfortable. However, others may not see beyond a student's performance or non-performance, and some students themselves may not reveal much beyond those. The social and emotional development of gifted kids is usually not a major focus during identification for gifted programs, nor is it usually addressed directly in those programs. Yet it is certainly related to school performance and well-being. The non-asset side of giftedness is also not discussed much, even though both high achievers and underachievers must deal with it. This presentation will look at sensitivities, intensities, perfectionism, anxieties, high achievement, underachievement, and parenting through a developmental lens, with suggestions for parenting gifted children and adolescents. She will also offer guidance related to parent advocacy.

In her first career, Jean Sunde Peterson, Ph.D., now director of school counselor preparation at Purdue University, was an English and foreign language teacher for many years. Eventually she also became involved in teacher education and gifted education, besides creating a long-running summer foreign-language day camp for young gifted children. When she began doctoral work in counseling and counselor education at The University of Iowa, her research interest in the social and emotional development of gifted children and adolescents was already well established, and she was already a published author. As part of her fellowship at the Belin-Blank Center for Gifted Education at the university, she consulted for the Center and counseled gifted children and their families in the Center clinic. Subsequently she became a licensed mental health counselor and, concurrent with her work as a counselor educator, had a part-time private counseling practice, largely focused on gifted children and their families.

She says that her "new, short, intense, late career" actually was only a short leap from her first one. She had long been fascinated by the psychological aspects of literature, by how development of writing ability positively affected students' self-concept, and by the complexity of the students she taught—both high achievers and academic underachievers. She continues to conduct school-based workshops on academic underachievement, cultural values as related to identification for special programs, prevention-oriented school counseling, listening skills for teachers, and the development of high-ability students--beyond their cognitive and academic development. All of these areas are reflected in her extensive practitioner-oriented research.

She is author of *The Essential Guide to Talking with Gifted Teens* and co-editor of *Models of Counseling Gifted Children, Adolescents, and Young Adults*, among over 80 books, journal articles, and book chapters. *The Essential Guide* is a compilation of small-group session frameworks focusing on social and emotional development, with topics suitable for both gifted youth and their families. She is currently a member of the Board of Directors of the National Association for Gifted Children and formerly was chair of the Counseling & Guidance Division in NAGC.

Adult Session Titles: A complete list and description of adult sessions will be given out at the conference. You will be free to go to any sessions the day of the conference – this listing is tentative and for informational purposes only. A complete list and description of the sessions will be available on the website in early October.

- The Arts & Storytelling: Understanding and Encouraging your Child's Natural Artistic Urges
- Case Studies of Academic Acceleration
- Cognitive Distortions in Gifted and Talented Children
- Common Reading Difficulties & Solutions for Gifted Elementary-Aged Children
- Conversation with Jean
- Essential Elements of Quality Gifted Programs
- Finding Funding to Make It Work
- Four Simple Steps to Self-Advocacy
- Helping Them Deal with the Burdens of Capability
- Homeschool Panel
- How to Scaffold without Helicoptering in Early Teen Years
- Isn't *Everyone* Gifted? Is *Anyone* Gifted?
- Making Sense of Underachievement
- MDE Listening Session: What's Working, What Needs Work?
- Parenting Young Gifted Children
- Perfectionism: What It Is, What It Isn't, and How To Help
- Stress Reduction Techniques for Gifted and Talented Children
- Staying Organized as a Homeschool Parent: Options for Scheduling and Planning Activities
- The Latest Research on IQ Testing 2009
- What Middle Schools Should Do – and Be – for Gifted Kids

The Minnesota Council for the Gifted and Talented (MCGT) is a state-wide non-profit organization dedicated to promoting better understanding of, and educational services for, gifted and talented children and their families. Its members are mainly parents, educators and other professionals. MCGT provides information, literature and referral services, publishes a bi-monthly newsletter, conducts occasional topical seminars and CHAT nights, sponsors an annual state conference with special children's program, promotes advocacy at all levels for gifted and talented children, is active in legislative efforts on behalf of gifted kids in collaboration with the Minnesota Educators of the Gifted and Talented, and participates in a national network through its affiliation with the National Association for Gifted Children and other organizations. Chapters and parent groups throughout the state provide opportunities for local activities.

Call 952-848-4906 for more information, or check the website www.mcgt.net



Become a Parent Member of NAGC at a Reduced Rate



Parents may now join the National Association for Gifted Children (NAGC) for only \$10/year if they are also members of a state affiliate organization (MCGT or MEGT). Contact info@mcgt.net for more information.

As a parent member of NAGC, you will receive the award-winning quarterly magazine, *Parenting for High Potential*, packed with great tips and ideas to help make learning a fun and rewarding experience for your child. Whether you're tackling big questions about giftedness or looking for resources, you can email our Parent Resource Specialist to access a wealth of knowledge and expertise gained from parenting three gifted children and a PhD in gifted studies. Work with advocacy experts at the federal level to raise public awareness of the unique needs of gifted children and ensure that funding continues to be made available to improve educational opportunities that promote educational excellence across the U.S

As a member of the Minnesota Council for the Gifted and Talented, you will receive the MCGT newsletter, *Outlook*, five times annually. Membership entitles you to discounts on MCGT conference and workshop registrations. You will also be invited to join MCGTdotnet, an online discussion group established for MCGT members – topics related to parenting gifted children and dealing with the social, emotional and educational needs of gifted children are the focus of the discussion group.

Talented Times Newsletter

The *Talented Times Newsletter* is a collaborative effort of the Crow River Region Chapter of the Minnesota Council for the Gifted and Talented and local school districts to provide parents and educators of gifted children with information and opportunities to better understand and meet the needs of the gifted and talented children and students in our communities. Though the school districts do not necessarily endorse any programs or activities listed, they do provide assistance with the copying and distribution of the newsletter.

In an effort to reduce costs, future issues of the *Talented Times* newsletter are sent to parents and educators in an electronic format. If you would prefer to receive a printed copy, please contact crowriver@mcgt.net with your name and preferred address).

AMAZON.COM Funding

The Minnesota Council for the Gifted and Talented has entered into a fundraising partnership with Amazon.com. Now, whenever you purchase a book, toy, software, or other item from Amazon.com, Amazon will donate back a percentage of the sales to MCGT as long as you follow one easy step.

To get to the Amazon.com site, do NOT type in "www.amazon.com" — instead, go to the MCGT website, www.mcgt.net, and then take the hyperlink and jump to Amazon. On the bottom of every page of the MCGT website is the Amazon.com logo. Click on that logo and you will be taken to the Amazon website.

Once there, proceed as usual and make your purchases. Amazon will know you came from the MCGT website, and will keep track of your purchases.



Minnesota Council for the Gifted and Talented Membership Form

New Member Renewal Changed Address/Phone Date _____

Names: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____
(Please Print Carefully)

Do you wish to be added to the MCGTdotnet Yahoo email discussion group? Yes No

Telephone: Home: (____) _____ Work Parent 1: (____) _____

Work Parent 2: (____) _____

MCGT Chapter 1: Crow River Region _____

*MCGT Chapter 2: _____
**add \$16.00 for each extra chapter*

Yes, I would like to volunteer my time and skills to MCGT.

Please list your volunteer interests and unique skills you would like to share.

You can also join MCGT online at www.mcgt.net using Paypal

Type of Membership

- __ Regular/Family (1 year)\$35.00
- __ Regular/Family (2 years)\$65.00
- __ Contributing\$50.00
- __ Supporting\$100.00
- __ NACG Parent (1 year) additional\$10.00
- __ Newsletter Only\$19.00

Financial assistance available for membership fee; call 952-848-4906 for more information.

***add \$16.00
for each
extra chapter**

Donations:

I am including a tax-deductible contribution in the amount of \$_____.

I am including a special tax-deductible donation for student scholarships in the amount of \$_____.

My employer(s) will match my contribution?

Yes No Don't know

Return To:
Minnesota Council for the Gifted and Talented
Membership Chair
5701 Normandale Rd., Rm. 315
Edina, MN 55424

Crow River Region Chapter of MCGT
735 Shady Ridge Rd NW
Hutchinson, MN 55350

Chapter Contact

Shari Colvin 320-587-7519

District Contacts

Gary Johnson - D-C District Coordinator 286-4100
Pam Dille - Dassel Elementary Coordinator 286-4100
Pam Osterberg - Cokato Elementary Coordinator 286-4100
Pam Beckermann - Middle School Coordinator 286-4100