

## Upcoming SEVA/TAG Conference

On September 21–22, 2007, the Southeastern Virginia Council of Gifted Administrators will host The Association for the Gifted (TAG) Board of Directors fall conference at Kecoughtan High School in Hampton, VA. “Diversity and Excellence: Reaching All High-Ability Learners” will give educators and parents a wonderful opportunity to attend sessions presented by members of the TAG Board of Directors, who will speak on issues relating to the theme of diversity and excellence.

Sessions will be held over the 2-day event, and conference attendees will interact with some of the nation’s most respected researchers in the field of gifted education. Tracy L. Cross will kick off the conference with a parent workshop on Friday and speak from 7–9 p.m. His session, “How Students Cope With Being Gifted,” will focus on gifted students’ self-perceptions, social cognition, coping strategies, and behaviors in school. Suggestions for teachers, counselors, and parents for guiding the psychological and social development of gifted students will be shared, and real-life examples will be used to bring to life the strategies and techniques presented in the session.

Saturday offers attendees the opportunity to choose from a number of different sessions. Cheryl Adams will present “Differentiating Instruction Through Tiered Lessons.” This session provides training in developing tiered lessons, one strategy that can assist teachers in meeting the challenge of providing respect-

ful, meaningful work at a level that challenges all learners—remedial, typical, and advanced. Tiered lessons focus on standards- and inquiry-based lessons and key concepts, as well as issues of readiness, interest, and learning profile.

Diane Montgomery’s session, “Meeting the Academic Needs of Talented Students Through Arts Infusion,” will describe the research outcomes for Project CREATES (Connecting Community Resources Encouraging All Teachers to Educate with Spirit), which was designed to integrate high-quality arts instruction with learning and teaching in all subject areas. Sample lesson plans will be discussed and methods for talent identification will be reviewed highlighting the strategies discovering talent among students who may not be served by traditional assessment techniques.

Susan Johnsen will focus on using independent studies in the classroom. “Using Independent Study With Gifted Students” will guide attendees in using the steps of the independent study process, which include developing a plan, selecting a topic, organizing a topic, asking questions, selecting a study method, collecting information, developing a product, presenting information, and evaluating the study. Student examples of independent studies also will be shared.

Ken Dickson will present a session titled, “Overcoming Underrepresentation in Gifted Programs: Capitalizing on Diversity.” This session focuses on Racial Ethnic Mi-

nority (REM) learners and learners from poverty, who continue to be under- or disproportionately represented in gifted programs. Focusing on unique and practical strategies, Dickson will examine ways to address disproportionality among REM populations. Special emphasis will be on identification practices.

Finally, Tracy L. Cross will offer a session on “From Underachievement to Suicide: How Students Cope With Being Gifted.” Gifted students often receive mixed messages from other students, teachers, counselors, parents and extended family, community members, and the media. Because the messages are dissimilar, they engage in numerous coping behaviors, some positive and neutral, while others are detrimental to their development and success as students. Cross will present A Stigma of Giftedness Paradigm (Coleman, 1985), as well as an Information Management Model (Coleman & Cross, 1988) that illustrate the experiences and perceptions gifted students have that lead to their coping behaviors.

Other sessions will be offered throughout the day, in addition to those noted here. This exciting conference is one that you will not want to miss. Preregistration costs are \$40 for Saturday and includes lunch. The Friday evening session is \$10. For more information, please contact Gloria Taradash (gtaradash@aol.com). Plan on joining the TAG Board Members in Hampton, VA, September 21–22.

## Journal for the Education of the Gifted

The Summer 2007 issue of the *Journal for the Education of the Gifted (JEG)* was recently published. This issue contains four articles and three book reviews that may be of interest to TAG members. Mary Ann Swiatek and Tracy Cross wrote, “Construct Validity of the Social Coping Questionnaire,” which gives information on the validity of the questionnaire by comparing it to the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator.

Sherry K. Bain and her coauthors provide a look preservice teachers’ preconceived notions of meeting the educational needs of gifted students in their article, “Serving Children Who Are Gifted: Perceptions of Undergraduates Planning to Become Teachers.”

Kristie L. Speirs Neumeister and colleagues investigated the perceptions of giftedness and identification procedures of experienced teachers of gifted minority students in “Fourth-Grade Teachers’ Perceptions of Giftedness: Implications for Identifying and Serving Diverse Gifted Students.”

The final article in this issue is Fatma A. L. Al-Lawati and Scott L. Hunsaker’s, “Differentiation for the Gifted in American Islamic Schools.” The authors report the results of their study that focused on teacher instructional and curricular practices in American Islamic schools.

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### How to Join TAG

Membership in The Association for the Gifted (TAG) is the best way to boost your own professional skills and become a more informed practitioner. Membership is open to any member of the Council for Exceptional Children (CEC). You must be a member of CEC to join TAG.

Joining either group is simple. You will find applications on the CEC Web site (<http://www.cec.sped.org>), or you may clip and return the application on p. 2 of this newsletter.

### Mark Your Calendars!

**CEC 2008 Convention & Expo**  
**April 2–5, 2008**  
**John B. Hynes Veterans’ Memorial**  
**Convention Center**  
**Boston, MA**

Make plans to attend CEC’s annual convention in historic Boston. The conference offers sessions focusing on the most up-to-date information on evidence-based strategies for working with gifted students, as well as the opportunity to learn and network with peers from around the world.

**TAG’s Annual Symposium**  
**Council for Exceptional Children**  
**April 2, 2008**  
**Boston, MA**

“Policy and Legislative Issues: Their Effects on Gifted and Talented Students”

Come learn how response to intervention, growth models, highly qualified teachers, No Child Left Behind, and other policies and legislative issues affect gifted and talented students. Be a part of the discussion in creating a 3-year plan that will direct the association’s future advocacy efforts.

# Upcoming Gifted Education Conferences

## Alabama Association for the Gifted Annual Conference

Birmingham, AL  
September 27–28, 2007

## Mississippi Association for the Gifted Conference

Jackson, MS  
September 27–28, 2007

## Tennessee Association for the Gifted 28th Annual Conference

Brentwood, TN  
September 27–28, 2007

## Colorado Association for Gifted and Talented 31st Annual State Conference

Denver, CO  
October 1–2, 2007

## Kansas Association for Gifted, Talented and Creative Annual Conference

Lawrence, KS  
October 7–9, 2007

## Ohio Association for Gifted Children Annual Conference

Columbus, OH  
October 7–9, 2007

## Iowa Talented and Gifted Association Conference

Des Moines, IA  
October 8–9, 2007

## New England Conference on Gifted and Talented Education

Portland, ME  
October 11–13, 2007

## Florida Association for the Gifted State Conference

Tampa, FL  
October 12–13, 2007

## Washington Association of Educators of the Talented and Gifted Conference

Richland, WA  
October 18–19, 2007

## Membership Application

To: CEC  
1110 N. Glebe Road, Suite 300  
Arlington, VA 22201-5704

### TAG Dues

US/Canada: Regular \$25-Student \$10  
Overseas: Air Mail \$50-Surface \$35

**CEC and TAG Dues.** I want to start enjoying the many benefits of membership in CEC and TAG. I am enclosing both CEC and TAG dues.\*

**TAG Dues Only.** I am currently a member of CEC and my CEC ID # is \_\_\_\_\_. I am enclosing TAG dues only (see prices above).

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State/Province: \_\_\_\_\_

Zip/Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Country: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

\* Please call (888) 232-7733 (toll free) or (703) 620-3660 for information on current CEC dues. Join online at <http://www.cec.sped.org>.

## Attend the Upcoming SEVA/TAG Conference on Diversity and Excellence

September 21–22, 2007  
Kecoughtan High School  
Hampton, VA

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These articles provide a brief glimpse into some of the research that is being conducted in the field of gifted education today.

*JEG* welcomes manuscripts for publication consideration. Send your submissions to Dr. Tracy L. Cross, *Journal for the Education of the Gifted*, Teachers College, Ball State University, Muncie, IN 47306.

The journal also welcomes submissions for its new section, Media Themes and Threads. If you are interested in reviewing a new media publication, please contact Dr. Kristie Speirs Neumeister, Department of Educational Psychology, Teachers College, Ball State University, Muncie, IN 47306 or by e-mail: [klspeirsneum@bsu.edu](mailto:klspeirsneum@bsu.edu).

## The Association for the Gifted

Tom Southern  
*President*

### Board Members

Diane Montgomery  
Susan Johnsen  
Elaine Dumas  
Cheryll M. Adams  
Kristie Speirs Neumeister  
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Lannie Kanevsky  
Tracy L. Cross  
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Gloria Taradash  
Jennifer Robins

*The TAG newsletter is a quarterly publication. If you have news or upcoming events you'd like to share with other TAG members or have a brief article you'd like to have featured in the newsletter, please contact Jennifer Robins at [jenniferrobins@mac.com](mailto:jenniferrobins@mac.com).*

tag

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