

From the President ...

We had a wonderful TAG gathering at Hampton University hosted by the Southeastern Virginia Council of Gifted Administrators (SEVA) for Gifted and Talented Education. This was a time to celebrate our presentations and the great discussions with the highly qualified SEVA professionals teaching gifted students and administering gifted programs.

There are a few things for which you need to start planning. First, mark the first week of April 2008 on your calendar and start watching for good plane fares. Also, be sure to vote for one of the two gifted education professionals who are running for the office of secretary for the TAG Board, with a term of January 2008 to December 2009. The ballot is addressed and included in this newsletter. All you have to do is read about the candidates, decide who you would want to be on the TAG Board, vote by checking a box, stamp, and mail the ballot to CEC. We'll announce the new secretary in the next newsletter. Your involvement in TAG is needed!

While in Virginia, the TAG Board finalized the plans for the TAG Symposium to be held in collaboration with the National Association for Gifted Children (NAGC) on **April 2, 2008** in Boston, MA. It will be held just before the Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) convention. Check this newsletter for other details. Registration for **Policy and Legislative Issues in Gifted Education** is opening very soon, but will be limited to the first 150 participants. The symposium must be small and active because of its interactive nature for creating solutions with the panel of experts and participants.

We now have many interesting sessions that are evidence-based and practical planned for CEC Boston, thanks to Mary Rizza of Bowling Green State University and Susan Johnsen of Baylor University. They solicited high-quality sessions, managed the review process, and planned for the best sessions to be presented. This year, an award will be given to the presentation that is inspirational and effective in addressing needs related to diversity issues in gifted education. Currently, we are investigating the donor and recipient of this prestigious award.

See you in Boston next April!

Tom Southern, President

Meet the Candidates for Secretary

Dr. Fred A. Bonner, II, is associate professor of higher education administration in the Educational Administration and Human Resource Development department at Texas A&M University—College Station. He received a bachelor's degree in chemistry from the University of North Texas, an M.S.Ed. in curriculum and instruction from Baylor University, and an Ed.D. in higher education administration and college teaching from the University of Arkansas-Fayetteville. Bonner has been the recipient of the American Association for Higher Education Black Caucus Dissertation Award and the Educational Leadership, Counseling, and Foundation's Dissertation of the Year Award from the University of Arkansas College of Education. Bonner has published articles and book chapters on academically gifted African American male college students, teaching in the multicultural college classroom, diversity issues in student affairs, and success factors influencing the re-

tion of students of color in higher education. He currently serves as an assistant editor for the National Association of Student Affairs Professionals Journal, and has completed three summers as a research fellow with the Yale University Psychology Department (PACE Center), focusing on issues that impact academically gifted African American male college students. Bonner is completing a book that highlights the experiences of postsecondary gifted African American male undergraduates in predominantly White and historically Black college contexts. Fred spent the 2005–2006 year as an American Council on Education (ACE) Fellow in the Office of the President at Old Dominion University in Norfolk, VA. Additionally, he recently has been awarded an NSF grant that focuses on factors influencing the success of high-achieving African American students in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) disciplines in HBCUs.

Jennifer L. Jolly received her Ph.D. in educational psychology with a concentrate in gifted education from Baylor University. Currently she is an assistant professor of elementary and gifted education at Louisiana State University. Her research interests include the history of gifted education and the impact of seminal federal government reports on gifted education. She also serves as editor of NAGC's *Parenting for High Potential*. Jolly has published articles on the foundations of the field of gifted education, trends in gifted education research, and is currently studying the concept of rigor through the lenses of teachers and students. Before her tenure at LSU, she taught in both gifted and regular education classrooms as a public school teacher in Texas. As secretary on CEC's TAG Board, Dr. Jolly would be contributing to one of the foremost organizations that advocate for gifted children and collaborating with many of the top scholars in the field.

The Association for the Gifted Preconference Symposium

This year's TAG Symposium will focus on federal policy and legislative issues that influence gifted education, including No Child Left Behind, the Javits Gifted Education Program, and the 2004 Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). Did you know that the Council for Exceptional Children, the Association for the Gifted (CEC-TAG), and the National Association for Gifted Children (NAGC) are requesting an expansion of the

Javits program so that states would receive money to support programs and services for students with gifts and talents? Are supporting an agency-wide coordinating function for advanced learners within the U.S. Department of Education? Are supporting the disaggregation of assessment data for those students who are gifted and talented so that their growth might be monitored? Are recommending that the AYP report include the number of stu-

dents who are participating in gifted and talented courses? Are including gifted and talented students in the response-to-intervention language in IDEA? Are examining ways to address the "effectiveness" of highly qualified teachers?

The symposium will begin with a distinguished panel of experts who will address these questions and also the following topics:

Symposium, continued on p. 2

Mark Your Calendars!

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 three-year plan that will direct the association's future advocacy efforts.

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.

Upcoming Gifted Education Conferences

Texas Association for the Gifted Annual Conference

Houston, TX
November 14–16, 2007

Illinois Association for Gifted Children 13th Annual Convention

Schaumburg, IL
December 9–11, 2007

Utah Association for Gifted Children Annual Conference

Salt Lake City, UT
January 31–February 2, 2008

Arizona Association for Gifted and Talented Annual Conference

Phoenix, AZ
February 6–8, 2008

Indiana Association for the Gifted/Indiana Department of Education Annual Conference

Indianapolis, IN
February 11–12, 2008

California Association for the Gifted Annual Conference

Anaheim, CA
February 15–17, 2008

Symposium, continued from p. 1

- James Gallagher, University of North Carolina (invited): How does gifted education fit within special education in the current political and legislative context?
- Richard Mainzer, Council for Exceptional Children: How do NCLB policies related to highly qualified effective teachers affect gifted education policy and practices?
- Daphne Pereles, Colorado Department of Education: How does response to intervention affect gifted education policy and practices at the state level?
- Michael Pyryt, University of Calgary: How might the inclusion of growth models in the new NCLB affect gifted education policy and practices?
- Deb Zigler, Council for Exceptional Children (invited): How does special education federal policy and legislation affect gifted education?

Immediately following these presentations, respondents from the National Association for Gifted Children and The Association for the Gifted will identify the panel's major themes and issues using the lens of a joint Three-Year Action Plan for Gifted and Talented Advocacy:

- Margie Kitano, Knowledge and Skills Set Coordinator, CEC-TAG, University of San Diego
- Diane Montgomery, Past President, CEC-TAG, Oklahoma State University
- Del Siegle, President, NAGC, University of Connecticut
- Joyce VanTassel-Baska, Past President, NAGC, College of William and Mary

The Three-Year Action Plan identifies goals, outcomes, strategies, and assessments in the areas of dissemination, personnel preparation, policy, and assessment.

The symposium participants, which will include representatives from state departments, universities, and school districts, will then have an opportunity to examine and discuss the themes, issues, and action plan. The final outcome will be to identify and prioritize future areas and actions that should be undertaken by CEC-TAG, CEC, and NAGC.

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>.

The Association for the Gifted

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tag

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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.