



Mission: To advocate for appropriate education for gifted, creative and talented students.

OAGCT

Oklahoma Association of Gifted, Creative and Talented

Volume 29, Issue 4

August 2007

Toni Pantier, Ed.D., President

Encyclo-Media Coming Soon

Mark your calendars now for August 29 and 30 to attend Encyclo-Media! The theme this year will be Celebrating Oklahoma's Legacy, reflecting Oklahoma's history and the impact on future innovations. Encyclo-Media 27 is recognized as an official Centennial Project. Encyclo-Media focuses on the fields of library media, reading, counseling, gifted and talented, and technology.

This year we are honored to have Nathan Levy, a gifted educator, as our guest speaker during Wednesday's luncheon.

Contact Kristy Ehlers or Catherine Dunn for information on sessions about gifted education. (See e-mail addresses on back cover.)

The conference is free. Pre-registration is due by August 20. The OAGCT luncheon is \$25 and must be paid by August 16. Forms for both are included in this newsletter or you can register on-line at www.title3.sde.state.ok/encyclomedia.

Register today!

Looking Ahead...

A Kaleidoscope of Gifted Learning

2008 OAGCT Spring Conference
Oklahoma Association for the Gifted,
Creative, and Talented, Inc.
Friday, February 22, 2008
University of Central Oklahoma
Nigh University Center
Edmond, Oklahoma

Keynote Speaker:
Bertie Kingore, Ph.D.

Nathan Levy, author of *Stories with Holes*, *Whose Clues?*, and *Nathan Levy's 100 Intriguing Questions*, is a gifted educator. In his thirty five years as a teacher and principal, Nathan worked directly with children, teachers and parents. He developed unique teaching strategies that encourage the love of learning. Mr. Levy's ideas have helped raise pupil achievement and bring back enthusiasm to educational staff.



STOP BY YOUR OAGCT BOOTH

Stop by the OAGCT booth at Encyclo-Media on August 29 (8:00-5:00) and August 30 (8:00-3:00). Catalogues, brochures, and book lists along with scholarship and award information will be waiting for you. Update your e-mail address so you can be included in our on-line newsletter beginning in 2008. Re-join OAGCT if your membership has expired. Your officers are looking forward to visiting with you.

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President's Corner

by Toni Pantier

With summer break winding down, you probably are mentally readying yourself for a new school year. Please include OAGCT in your plans. Just as you are asking yourself how you can serve your kiddos in the best possible way, please ask yourself how OAGCT might be of service to you. Our association is only as strong as we, the members, make it. What would you like to see in the quarterly newsletters that would be helpful to you? What should be added to our website? Which presentation topics would you like included at the Spring Conference? What could you write about and submit to the newsletter—maybe something that has worked well for you in gifted education or a great training/conference you attended? Collectively our membership has a wealth of knowledge and expertise! Let's share it!

My focus this year as president is three-fold. Continually I want to reflect and then put in motion new ways to meet the needs of students who are gifted and to showcase them in different arenas. I also want to expedite delivery of information and help "save the trees" by moving our newsletter to an on-line format. When the 2007-2008 school year draws to an end, hopefully OAGCT will have touched more students, teachers, and parents than ever before.

From the State Department...

Welcome back to school from the State Department of Education. We know how exciting those first few weeks can be. At the same time, we also know how hectic they can become. At the State Department, we hope we can help alleviate some of that anxiety. We are here as a resource for you. Along with our updated website <title3.sde.state.ok.us/gifted>, we also offer free professional development to your staff. We would love to come speak with you and your school about any issues you are having. If a site visit is not necessary, please feel free to call us for a phone consultation. We would be more than happy to discuss anything from state law to parents to best practices. We are here for you. Enjoy your year and continue to touch students. You make the difference.

Kristy Ehlers, Ph.D. and Catherine Dunn
Gifted and Talented/Advanced Placement
State Department of Education
405-521-4287

CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE

by Dana Stair,
Technology Committee Chair

Surf on over to www.OAGCT.org. On our site you can find information about upcoming conferences, board meetings, legislative updates, scholarships, awards, and links to gifted resources. You can download membership and scholarship applications and conference registration information. We will also begin posting board minutes and our quarterly newsletters. This is also a great way to contact board members if you have any questions, concerns, or suggestions. See you in cyberspace!

Family Factoids

Check out our new parent page! You will find it in each newsletter this school year. Please feel free to copy it and share with all of your parents of gifted children. We want to reach more parents of gifted students and encourage them to become a part of the OAGCT family. Touching parents touches our students!

FAMILY FACTOIDS

A Great Resource for Parents of Gifted Children...

The Gift of Struggle

Parenting Pointers
by Marti Sudduth

Submitted by Debbie Price,
Parent Committee Co-Chair

Most young children reach a certain point at which they want to do many things without our help. They want to feed themselves, they want to open every door without assistance, they want to button their buttons, etc. If we try to help, we often hear, "No! Me!" While frustrating for everyone, this stage is important. Even young children know down deep that they need to experience struggle to learn.

As our children grow, many of us forget that struggle is a gift. When they are having a hard time tying their shoes, we quickly do it for them. When they are challenged with homework, we often jump in and tell them how to do it. It's hard to sit back, watch, and allow them to learn through repeated effort.

Children learn to feel good about themselves when they are allowed to struggle and experience the resulting pride of accomplishment. When your children are struggling with something, experiment with saying, "I bet you can figure that out. If you don't get it by ____, then I'll give you some ideas."

When you do help, remember the following rule: NEVER WORK HARDER THAN YOUR CHILD!

PARENT AND TEACHER INSTITUTE

September 6 & 7, 2007

LOVE AND LOGIC

with Charles Fay, Ph.D.

University School at The University of Tulsa and Family & Children's Services will host the 23rd annual Parent and Teacher Institute on September 6 & 7, 2007. The event will feature Dr. Charles Fay of the Love and Logic Institute.

Dr. Fay is a parent, as well as an authority in child, school, and family psychology, parent training techniques, and classroom management strategies. He provides audiences with a unique insight into the benefits of the Love and Logic philosophy, having experienced them as a child, a parent, and a therapist. Fay has taught hundreds of parents and teachers across the country how to successfully implement the Love and Logic philosophy in their own homes and classrooms. He also has provided extensive psychotherapy and consultation services to children in schools, as well as inpatient psychiatric settings. For registration information, please call (918) 631-5060.

OAGCT Outstanding Service Award

Nominate someone who is working to improve gifted and talented education in Oklahoma. This could be a parent, teacher, consultant or administrator.

(See page 12 for nomination form.)

Two great magazines for parents are:
Parenting for High Potential and *Teaching for High Potential*

These magazines have practical advice and guidance for parents and teachers and are available with NAGC membership. Both are published quarterly.

Top 5 Things to Look for in a Good Gifted Program

What should a good gifted program look like? How can I ensure my child is being supported yet challenged? Here is a TOP 5 list of things a good gifted program should encompass. This is not an exhaustive list, but a starting point for criteria.

Higher Level Thinking Skills

Students should be utilizing Bloom's Taxonomy, especially analysis, synthesis, and evaluation. Instead of reading about science experiments they should be *creating* their own. Students should be applying the knowledge they have to construct, analyze, and formulate projects of their own.

Differentiation

Does the program allow for students' differences or is a "one-size-fits-all" program? Each student is gifted in different ways. A student that is gifted in the arts may not be gifted in math. A good program should differentiate instruction based on the individual student's strengths and abilities.

Multiple Identification Methods

Not only can students be identified as gifted through a *national standardized ability test*, but also through multiple assessments. Does the program make every effort to seek out LD gifted students, minority students, transfers, or low socioeconomic children?

Variety and Flexibility

Does the program allow for students to have "open-ended" assignments? Is the school willing to be flexible in allowing the child self pacing or proficiency based promotion? Is the curriculum stimulating and requiring the student to stretch and create?

Passion

Does the teacher(s) have a passion for gifted students? Are they continually trying to find new ways to serve students? Does the school honor the gifted program as much as the football program? Is it a priority?

Catherine Dunn

Gifted and Talented Specialist

Oklahoma State Department of Education

405-521-4287

State Superintendent's



Sandy Garrett
State Superintendent of Public Instruction
Oklahoma State Department of Education



ENCYCLO-MEDIA
CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

Wednesday, August 29, and Thursday, August 30, 2007

No Registration Fee! Everyone Welcome!

Cox Convention Center
One Myriad Gardens
Oklahoma City

First Name _____ Last Name _____

School District Name/Organization _____

School Site Name _____

Work Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Work Phone (____) _____ Ext. _____ E-mail _____

(Please check one)

Administrator Classroom Teacher Gifted and Talented
 Library Media Specialist/Asst. Counselor Technology Other

Contact information: <<http://sde.state.ok.us>> (405) 521-2956

Preregistration deadline: **Monday, August 20, 2007**

Mail registration forms to:

Encyclo-Media, P.O. Box 53159, Oklahoma City, OK 73152

Fax registration forms to: (405) 522-0611

I would like to be a room host/hostess.
(Please submit a host/hostess form.)

****Luncheons--\$25 each****

Luncheon fees will be paid to the sponsoring organization and must be postmarked by **Thursday, August 16, 2007**. Only checks or money orders will be accepted. Payment may **NOT** be made with purchase orders. All luncheons will be held in the Cox Convention Center, 2nd floor. If you plan to attend a luncheon, you **MUST** submit a luncheon registration form.

Oklahoma Technology Administrators
(Wednesday, August 29, 2007)
Speaker: Quyen Arana
Check or money order **must** be made payable to OTA.
Mail to: OTA
P.O. Box 852076
Yukon, OK 73085

Oklahoma Association for the Gifted, Creative, and Talented (Wednesday, August 29, 2007)
Speaker: Nathan Levy
Check or money order **must** be made payable to OAGCT.
Mail to: OAGCT
P.O. Box 60448, N.W. Station
Oklahoma City, OK 73146-0448

Oklahoma School Counselor Association
(Thursday, August 30, 2007)
Speaker: Dr. Ron Willis
Check or money order **must** be made payable to OSCA.
Mail to: Linda Nunley/OSCA
2308 North Lakeview Lane
Mustang, OK 73064

Oklahoma Association of School Library Media Specialists (Thursday, August 30, 2007)
Speaker: Wendelin Van Draanen
Check or money order **must** be made payable to OASLMS.
Mail to: OASLMS
Southeast P. O. Tulsa, P.O. Box 471106
Tulsa, OK 74147



Acrobat Document

2007-08 BOARD MEETING DATES

OAGCT Board Meetings are open to all OAGCT members. Meetings will be held on the last Tuesday whenever possible.

August 29, 2007 (Wednesday)

Cox Convention Center, OKC

September 25, 2007 (Tuesday)

Best Western Restaurant, Stroud, 5:30-7:00

October 30, 2007 (Tuesday)

State Dept. of Education, OKC, 5:30-7:00

January 29, 2008 (Tuesday)

E-mail meeting

February 21, 2008 (Thursday)

UCO Student Union Ballroom, Edmond, 4:00

set-up for conference and meeting

April 29, 2008 (Tuesday)

State Dept. of Education, OKC, 5:30-7:00

Beverly Riggs Camp Scholarship

Guess what! Eleven Oklahoma gifted students from Chandler, Midwest City, Norman, Stillwater, and Tulsa enjoyed gifted summer camp opportunities to the tune of \$4,115 thanks to OAGCT's Beverly Riggs Camp Scholarships! Nine elementary children, one middle school child, and one high school student received tuition to one of the following camps:

OSU 2007 Summer Enrichment Camp

Tulsa Community College for Young Scholars

Camp Incredible at University School of Tulsa

Moore-Norman Technology Center Summer

Youth Academy

Gilcrease Museum Enrichment Opportunities at Tulsa

Horizon's Unlimited at OU

Conference on National Affairs at Black Mountain, NC

During the Encyclo-Media luncheon for gifted education on August 29th, OAGCT will showcase these students and their camp experiences.

Beverly Riggs taught gifted youth in Stillwater, served on the OAGCT Board of Directors for many years, and co-directed the OSU Writing Project Writing Camp for elementary students. It is only fitting that in her name gifted children across the state enjoy summer camp opportunities that stretch their minds.

THINK GREEN!

We will soon begin sending our newsletter via e-mail. Please submit your e-mail address to Heather Butler at hbutler@mid-del.k12.ok.us by Sept 1st. We plan to be totally "paper free" by January 2008!

WHO ARE YOUR OUTSTANDING STUDENTS?

As you become acquainted with your students this school year, please consider nominating students who stand out above the rest. The Nicholas Green Distinguished Student Award was designed to recognize excellence in elementary students, grades 3 through 6, in the area of academics, leadership, or the arts. NAGC awards a \$500 savings bond to a student from each state. In addition, OAGCT recognizes one student in each of the areas of academics, leadership, and the arts with a bond.

Who was Nicholas Green? Nicholas, a gifted child from California, and his family were traveling in Italy late one night when a car sped up beside them, fired several shots, and killed Nicholas. Come to find out, the event was a botched robbery. His parents, Reg and Maggie Green, donated his organs to seven Italians waiting for transplants. Read Reg's tender book, [The Nicholas Effect: A Boy's Gift to the World](#)

Out of the Green's loss comes NAGC's Nicholas Green Distinguished Student Award.

Please find the nomination forms in this issue. Nominations must be postmarked no later than December 1, 2007.

Oklahoma Association of Gifted, Creative and Talented
NAGC Nicholas Green Distinguished Student Award
and the OAGCT Awards of Excellence

The National Association for Gifted Children (NAGC) Nicholas Green Distinguished Student Award is designed to recognize excellence in young children and is awarded to one student in each state who is entered in Grades 3, 4, 5 or 6 and who has distinguished himself or herself in the area of academics, leadership, or the arts.

Nomination Procedure

OAGCT will accept nominations from parents, teachers, students, and community and civic groups, as well as self-nominations.

Nominations for the current school year must be postmarked **no later than December 1**. Nominations postmarked after that date will not be reviewed.

Eligibility Criteria

Student must be in Grades 3 through 6 at the time of nomination.

Outstanding student accomplishment may be in the area of academics, leadership, or the arts.

Submission Process

Applications must include:

A composition written by the student nominee. Compositions should describe

- a. The activity or interest area for which the student is being nominated.
- b. How the student became interested or involved in the activity.
- c. The impact the activity has had on the student and on others.
- d. How the student's future plans and goals have been affected by this activity or interest area.

A completed application form.

One letter of recommendation from someone other than a nominee's family member, explaining why the student nominee is deserving of the award, what sets the student apart from others, and how the nominee is impacting others.

A photo (preferably a school photo) to be used in award publicity in the event the student is selected for the award.

A signed release form from a parent or guardian granting permission to NAGC to use the nominee's name, composition, and photo in award publicity and announcements should he or she be selected.

A self-addressed, stamped **POSTCARD** which will be used to acknowledge receipt of the application packet.

Selection Procedure

OAGCT will acknowledge receipt of the nomination packet if a self-addressed, stamped **POSTCARD** is included in the packet.

A selection committee will review the applications and make awards based on merit. NAGC reserves the right not to make an award in a state if the selection committee determines that the submissions for that state are not exceptional.

Selection of award winners will be completed by January 1.

Award winners will be notified of their selection in writing by February 1.

The NAGC winner will receive a certificate and a \$500 U.S. Savings Bond. The U.S. Department of the Treasury will mail the U.S. Savings Bond directly to the NAGC winner.

The OAGCT winners will receive a certificate and a U.S. Savings Bond.

Nominations must be postmarked no later than December 1, 2007.

Mail to: OAGCT
Nicholas Green Nominations
P.O. Box 60448, NW Station
Oklahoma City, OK 73146-0448

**Nicholas Green Distinguished Student Award
2007-2008 Application Form
(Please print or type.)**

Date _____

State (where nominee resides) _____

Student Information

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone Number _____

Birth Date _____ **Grade (at time of application)** _____

Social Security Number _____

Name of Parent or Guardian _____

School Name _____

School Address _____

Teacher's Name _____

Name of Person Nominating Student _____

**Submit forms and enclosures, postmarked NO LATER THAN DECEMBER 1, to:
OAGCT
Nicholas Green Nomination
PO Box 60448, NW Station
Oklahoma City, OK 73146-0448**

Enclosures (5):

- Student Composition
- Letter of Recommendation (from someone other than a family member)
- Signed Release Form
- Photo
- Self-addressed, stamped postcard

**Nicholas Green Distinguished Student Award
2007-2008 Release Form
(Please print or type.)**

I hereby give the National Association for Gifted Children (NAGC) permission to use my son/daughter's photo and composition, submitted in connection with the NAGC Nicholas Green Distinguished Student Award, in any publicity or announcements NAGC may make about the Award or the Award winners should my son or daughter be selected for the Award.

I further grant permission to NAGC to use my son/daughter's name, school name, and city and state in any publicity or announcement that uses his/her photo or composition and to make edits to the length of the composition as may be necessary.

I understand that neither I nor my son/daughter will receive any remuneration in connection with this permission and understand that the photo and composition will not be returned to me.

Signature of parent or guardian _____

Name (please print) _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone (day) _____ E-Mail _____

Relationship to Student Award Nominee _____

Name of Student Nominee _____

Student's Social Security Number (necessary to purchase Bond) _____

State _____ Oklahoma _____

Date _____

NAGC/OKLAHOMA Association for Gifted, Creative, Talented, Inc. 2007-2008

Oklahoma Association of Gifted, Creative and Talented Nomination for the OAGCT Outstanding Service Award

Each year the OAGCT Outstanding Service Award is presented in recognition of service to Oklahoma's gifted and talented students. Anyone who is actively involved in a personal effort to improve gifted and talented education in Oklahoma is eligible to receive this award, including parents, teachers, consultants, administrators, and others. Anyone may submit a nomination for the award. Please use this form to nominate any qualified person who has not previously been selected. Since only one award is given each year, many exceptional nominees have not been recognized.

Nominee _____

Nominee's School Affiliation _____

Nominee's Address _____

Nominee's City/State/Zip _____

Nominee's Role in Gifted Education _____

Nominee's Number of Years of Service to Gifted Education _____

On a separate page, provide a detailed narrative description of the nominee's service to gifted education and your reasons for nominating this person.

Nominated By _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone (Home) _____ Phone (Work) _____

How long have you known the nominee? _____

**Nomination forms and narratives
must be postmarked no later than December 1, 2007.**

**Mail to: OAGCT
 Outstanding Service Award Nominations
 P.O. Box 60448, NW Station
 Oklahoma City, OK 73146-0448**

Gifted Education Coursework

Fall 2007

OSU - Tulsa

EPSY 5663 Creativity for Teachers (3 graduate credit hours)

Diane Montgomery, Ph.D., Instructor

Meets on Mondays at 4:30 - 7:10 p.m.

Contact :

diane.montgomery@okstate.edu

for details or the Graduate College to enroll.

Looking for Books?

Try checking out these ...



Losing Our Minds (by Deborah L. Ruf, Ph.D.) builds the case that there is no solid line between gifted and not gifted and there are many different levels of giftedness.

Being Smart About Gifted Children (by Donna J. Matthews, Ph.D. and Joanne F. Foster, Ed.D.) discusses the “mystery” and “mastery” models of gifted education and demonstrates the need to match an education to a child’s needs at any given time.

Supporting Gifted Education Through Advocacy **Author Sandra Berger**

Submitted by Carell Falsarella, Advocacy Chairman

Following are excerpts from this document:

Understanding the Process and Avoiding the Pitfalls

The term advocate originates from the Latin word for legal counselor. It means one who pleads in favor of, supports by argument, defends or vindicates. Thus, we consciously (and sometimes unconsciously) become advocates of the things we truly believe in and want to see develop and improve.

To best explain the concept of advocacy, we will begin with some of the wrong approaches, then move to a suggested process for using your drive and abilities to achieve success as an advocate.

Pitfall #1: Using an Adversarial Rather than a Persuasive Approach

**Pitfall #2: Assuming That People In Administrative and Political Positions
Are Not Too Bright or Not Very Knowledgeable--or Both**

Pitfall # 3: Being Impatient

Pitfall #4: Being Human

The author explains each of the pitfalls and goes on to discuss the next two areas of advocacy:

**Channeling Your Energies in the Right Direction Through Systematic
Advocacy**

Establishing and Maintaining a Successful Parent Advocacy Group

To view the entire document visit www.hoagiesgifted.org. Enter ERIC Digest #494. Hoagies is filled with information on gifted education.

Journals in Gifted Education

by Diane Montgomery, Ph.D.
Oklahoma State University

Hi OAGCT Members! With pleasure I list the journals that directly address research and policy for the education and well-being for students who are gifted. Of course, there are hundreds of studies with intelligence, creativity, and gifted students that are published in other related journals, too. In the future, I look forward to summarizing some of the key research articles published in these and other professional journals. You can google any of the titles for more information.

The Journal for the Education of the Gifted (JEG)

This is the official publication of The Association for the Gifted, a division of the Council for Exceptional Children (TAG). The journal comes with professional membership dues. Now publishing its 30th volume, Dr. Tracy Cross of Ball State University in Muncie, Indiana is the Editor. Prufrock Press (www.prufrockpress.com) in Waco, Texas publishes this journal.

Gifted Child Quarterly (GCQ)

This is the official professional publication of the National Association for Gifted Children (NAGC) (of which OAGCT is an affiliate member). The journal comes with professional membership dues. Now in its 51st volume, Dr. Paula Olszewski-Kubilius of Northwestern University is the Editor. Go to <http://gcq.sagepub.com> for more information.

Gifted Child Today (GCT)

This is a magazine designed to assist teachers of the gifted in their work with gifted children. It is in its 30th volume and Dr. Susan Johnsen of Baylor University is its Editor. Prufrock Press (www.prufrockpress.com) is its publisher.

Parenting for High Potential and Teaching for High Potential

These magazines have practical advice and guidance for parents and teachers and are available with NAGC membership. Both are published quarterly.

OAGCT Membership

Our OAGCT family is 346 members strong. All those people work together with the purpose of bringing together concerned professionals and other persons interested in gifted, creative, and talented youth for their mutual support and growth. Please encourage educators, parents, and community members who are concerned about Oklahoma's high ability students to join our membership.

What does OAGCT do? OAGCT supports appropriate educational opportunities, encourages the improvement of educational services and informs the general of public of need of gifted, creative, and talented students. The association also disseminates news and information, fosters professional growth of educators, provides a forum for the exchange of information and ideas among the membership, supports legislation and funding, and works in cooperation and support with the National Association of Gifted and Creative.

What are the benefits of membership? Members receive a quarterly newsletter and a discounted rate for the annual spring conference. They can vote in OAGCT elections and serve on the OAGCT Board of Directors. Individual memberships are \$20 per year. Institutional memberships for a school district are \$200. Affiliate memberships for organizations are \$30. Honorary memberships are offered to our governor, his spouse, and the Oklahoma Superintendent of Schools.

OAGCT MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Yes, I want to become a member of OAGCT

? New Member

? Membership renewal

Name _____

Address _____

City /State/Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Work Phone _____

School District _____

Email _____

Individual membership: \$20.00 per year

____ Student

____ Regular Education Teacher

____ Parent

____ Administrator

____ Teacher of Gifted Students

____ Other _____

Institutional Membership: \$200.00 per year

Institutional Memberships are for school districts. These memberships include 5 newsletters per quarter that a district may copy and distribute to its employees. Employees of these districts may register for OAGCT conferences and pay the member's fee.

Affiliate Membership: \$30.00 per year

Affiliate memberships are for other organizations who support the mission of OAGCT.

Note: Membership is free this year with OAGCT conference registration.

Checks should be written to OAGCT.

Mail your check and this form to:

OAGCT Membership Chair

P. O. Box 60448 N. W. Station

Oklahoma City, OK 73146

OAGCT News

Heather Butler, Editor
 306 W. Brett Dr.
 Midwest City, OK 73110

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

OAGCT Board of Directors 2007-2008

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