

Neag Center
for
Gifted Education
and
Talent
Development

NEWS & VIEWS

The latest in Gifted Education

Oct. 20, 2006 Vol. 1, Issue 4 Visit us on the web at <http://www.gifted.uconn.edu>

LET US THINK OF EDUCATION AS THE MEANS OF DEVELOPING OUR GREATEST ABILITIES, BECAUSE IN EACH OF US THERE IS A PRIVATE HOPE AND DREAM WHICH, FULFILLED, CAN BE TRANSLATED INTO BENEFIT FOR EVERYONE AND GREATER STRENGTH FOR OUR NATION. – JOHN F. KENNEDY

IN THE NEWS: PROGRAMS DEVELOPING TALENT AND ABILITIES.

1500 Students to Benefit from Gifted Education Teaching Methods from 2007

<http://www.channelnewsasia.com/stories/singaporelocalnews/view/232996/1/.html>

Gifted Students Can Set Own Pace

<http://www.indeonline.com/index.php?ID=9975&r=o&Category=1>

Jones Middle School Empowers Students: Outdoor Classroom among Positive Changes

http://www.leadercall.com/local/local_story_270093059.html

Cultivating Gifted Students: Pilot Program Aims to Uncover Each Child's Talent

<http://www.azcentral.com/community/phoenix/articles/1011phx-gifted1011Z3.html>

Glacier Hills Gifted and Talented Specialist Uses Her Life's Greatest Lesson to Inspire Students

<http://www.hometownsource.com/2006/October/3bethwakefield.html>

Nourishing the Super Kid: Although No Blueprint Exists on how to Raise a Gifted Child, There are Things Parents Should Keep in Mind

<http://www.canada.com/vancouver/news/westcoastnews/story.html?id=fe684e5a-da2d-41a0-86bd-d0d6ce10fd62&p=1>

The Talent to Excel: Everyone has Ability, but Some Young People Use their Abilities to Excel

<http://www.canada.com/vancouver/news/westcoastnews/story.html?id=c7726157-8982-404e-baba-ofd9114cbdc7>



NEW TOOL FOR TEACHERS.

Google Turns into Teachers' Pet
<http://networks.silicon.com/webwatch/0,39024667,39163143,00.htm>



COLLEGE-LEVEL CREDIT IN HIGH SCHOOL.

The College Ladder: Linking Secondary and Postsecondary Education for Success for All Students <http://www.aypf.org/projects/LuminaProjectonSPLOs.htm>



NEWS FROM THE HOME TEAM.

Several people have asked Joe for a short and easy-to-read piece on Enrichment Clusters that they can reproduce and share with principals and other teachers. You can download and copy this item at http://www.gifted.uconn.edu/sem/pdf/Authentic_High-End_Learning.pdf

Robin Schader was recently a keynote speaker at the Conference for Parents of Gifted Children in New Jersey. You can read about the conference and comments by Dr. Schader at <http://www.northjersey.com/page.php?qstr=eXJpcnk3ZjczN2Y3dnFIZUVFeXkoNyZmZ2JlbDdmN3ZxZWVFRXl5Njk5OTM1OSZ5cmlyeTdmNzE3Zjd2cWVIRUV5eTQ=>

While at the NAGC Convention, stop by and hear Diana Payne and Eric Mann's presentation, "Challenging High Ability Elementary School Science Students."

Diana Payne recently had an article, "Under Pressure: A Study of Issues in Oceanography" published in the September 2006 issue of *The Science Teacher* (Vol. 73, No. 6), which is published by the National Science Teachers Association.



WANTED!

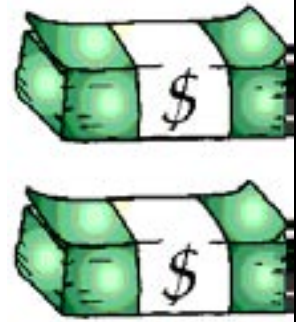
Have you read a good book that you would recommend parents, teachers, or administrators in gifted education read? *News & Views* is looking for book reviews to feature in future issues. If you are interested in submitting a book review, please contact Jill Adelson at jill.adelson@uconn.edu.

We are always looking for new ideas and pieces from our readers. If you have other ideas for submissions to *News & Views*, please send those as well!

MONEY MATTERS



This issue of *News & Views* introduces a new name and look to our column on funding. Each issue will now include "Money Matters", a regular feature which will spotlight funding opportunities in three areas – student contests, teacher grants, and academic scholarships. In addition, each column will focus on a different academic domain. This issue begins with science.



MONEY MATTERS: SPOTLIGHT ON SCIENCE

STUDENT CONTEST: THE CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS AWARDS



Imagine a contest that would encourage students to become problem solvers by creating, conducting research, and writing proposals all at the same time. The Christopher Columbus Award is exactly that type of opportunity for innovative middle school students. Sponsored by the Christopher Columbus Fellowship Foundation and the National Science Foundation, the contest offers students a chance to combine science and technology in a real world problem solving context.

Students work with an adult coach to identify a problem of concern within their community. They research the problem, conduct field tests, and then write up their research in the form of a grant request to be submitted to the foundation. Thirty semifinalist teams are selected, and then eight finalists. The eight finalist teams receive an all expense paid trip to Disney World in Orlando, Florida, where they present their ideas during National Championship Week. One team is selected for \$25,000 funding to implement their proposal within the community.

Sample projects from previous winning teams have included

- a heat conductor that gathers heat from garbage piles and circulates it to indigent communities in the winter.
- an Auto-MAT-ic mat for senior citizens that automatically switches on a light when you step on it.
- an allergy scanner that scans ingredients in a substance and alerts the consumer to any potential allergens.
- a fire extinguisher that automatically sets off an alert when it's picked up.

In addition, five teams have gone on to develop patents for their inventions.

More information on the Christopher Columbus Awards may be found at the website <http://www.christophercolumbusawards.com> All entries are due February 7, 2007.

Contributed by Nancy N. Heilbronner

MONEY MATTERS: SPOTLIGHT ON SCIENCE



TEACHING GRANT: THE TAPESTRY GRANT

Innovative teachers of science – have we got a grant for you! The Tapestry Foundation, sponsored by the Toyota Motor Sales, USA and under the auspices of the National Science Teacher's Association (NSTA), will award 50 one year grants for up to \$10,000, as well as 20 mini-grants of up to \$2,500 each. The competition is open to all K-12 teachers of science who have at least three years of experience (not counting the current year). Grant recipients should propose a hands-on, creative, visionary, novel way of teaching science.

The Tapestry Grant has been awarded since 1995. Past winners include a high school team that built functional optical and radio telescopes, a middle school team that focused on developing high interest engineering activities for girls, and an elementary team that mixed chemicals to create authentic mixtures for Native American face paints, medicinal salves, and insect repellents.

Online proposals must be submitted by January 18, 2007. Winners will be notified in March, 2007. More information on writing the grant as well as an online application is available at the website, <http://www.nsta.org/programs/tapestry/index.htm>



**SCHOLARSHIP: THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF HEALTH
UNDERGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM**

The National Institute of Health Undergraduate Scholarship Program (UGSP) offers a number of scholarships for disadvantaged youth who are interested in pursuing a career in the behavioral, biomedical, or social-science health related fields. The scholarship will pay recipients up to \$20,000 per year in tuition, education and living expenses. Plus, recipients will spend two summers as a research assistant in an NIH research laboratory, and will agree to work for a minimum of one year after graduation at one of the facilities.

To qualify, applicants must be a U.S. citizen, from a disadvantage background, have a 3.5 or higher GPA, and be accepted into a four year accredited university. Online applications are available at <http://www.ugsp.nih.gov> and are due February 27, 2007. More information is available at the NIH website: http://www.ugsp.nih.gov/overview_faqs/overview_faqs.asp?m=01&s=01

Contributed by Nancy N. Heilbronner



The summer of 2006 marked the 29th year of Confratute- part CONFeRence and part instiTUTE, mixed with a whole lot of FRATernity – hosted by the Neag Center for Gifted Education and Talent Development at the University of Connecticut. It was a record-breaking year, with just over 1,200 people from 38 states and 10 countries flocking to the campus at Storrs, CT from July 10 through July 21, where they learned about enrichment teaching and learning, talent development, and gifted education from some of the leading experts and practitioners in the field.

The state of New York led with an impressive turnout of 499 attendees, almost half of the entire conference enrollment. Malaysia also had strong representation, with a contingency of 32 teachers and administrators trekking across the globe. Other countries represented were our friendly neighbors to the North and South, Canada and Mexico, as well as Switzerland, Singapore, Australia, New Zealand, South Korea, Thailand, and the UK.

A notable lineup of keynote speakers addressed a variety of pertinent subjects, such as:

- Del Siegle's comedy-infused talk on reversing underachievement,
- Sandra Kaplan's thought-provoking discussion of bridging the achievement gap,
- Susan Baum's strategy-laden address on twice-exceptional learners, and
- Bart Roccoberon's awe-inspiring presentation of the power of puppetry.

Joseph Renzulli and Sally Reis were also on hand, delivering words of wisdom and inspiration for all. Winning the award for longest keynote was Rachel McAnallen, "Math Mama" herself, keeping everyone on the edge of their seats as she delivered her fresh perspective on mathematics with her pockets full of money, her surprise guests "Secret Agent One" and "Zero the Unsung Hero," and her laugh-out-loud wit.

Much entertainment and fun was had by all as they viewed yet another hysterical set of performances by Confratute attendees at the variety show, participated in the music-inspired quiz show, and danced the night away at the themed patio parties. Not even hip replacement surgery could keep one particular keynoter off the dance floor!

All in all, Confratute '06 was a time of tremendous learning and growth, where educators were able to rest, relax, and renew. Mark your calendars for Confratute 2007 (July 9th-20th), which is forecasted to be a landmark year as "the 'TUTE" celebrates 30 years of existence. Happy Birthday, Confratute!

Contributed by Kristina Paul



CONFRATUTE HIGHLIGHT!

This July 2006, as an initiative of Dr. Eliana D. Rojas from the Neag School of Education, Confratute welcomed the participation of a significant number of educators from schools districts with high concentrations of language minority children, mostly Hispanics. The group met to discuss expectations concerning possible interventions and special support from the University of Connecticut Center for Gifted Education and Talented Development. Most of their concerns concentrated on areas such as identification, counseling, teaching and assessing gifted and talented English Learners. Next Confratute 2007 will offer a new strand focusing on the special needs of this student's population. For information contact Dr. Eliana D. Rojas at: email: eliana.rojas@uconn.edu; phone: 860-486-2005

Contributed by Dr. Eliana D. Rojas

SEE THE HOME TEAM IN ACTION!

Accelerated Schools Plus National Conference: Fulfilling the Dream
January 14-16, 2007
Memphis Cook Convention Center



The biggest challenge public education faces is the achievement gap that exists between advantaged students and students placed in at risk situations. Over fifty percent of minority and English language learners who start high school in ninth grade fail to graduate. This condition exists because of the skill driven, remedial, and often mind-numbing experiences provided in most economically disadvantaged communities. These students that most need acceleration are ensured failure by virtue of the learning experiences they receive.

You are a key part of the solution! This situation requires an accelerated approach to education that embeds powerful learning, rigor, application, and student ownership. The outcomes of Accelerated Schools implementation provide the means to fully address this challenge.

The 2007 Accelerated Schools Plus National Conference: Fulfilling the Dream will lead teachers on a journey that will help them not only fulfill their dreams for their students but also their students dreams for themselves. Speakers at this year's conference include Steve Ross, Joseph Renzulli, Del Siegle, Kathy Gavin, and Craig Zablocki. Registration is available on-line at <http://acceleratedschools.net>

Contributed by Gene Chasin

RENZULLI LEARNING SYSTEMS RECOMMENDATIONS! Contests and competitions can be great tools to motivate students and provide opportunities for students to share their work with an audience beyond their school. The beginning of the school year is the perfect time to sign up for these events. Here are several online contests and competitions that you might want to investigate for use with your students.

Academic Leagues for Math, Science and Social Studies

<http://www.academicleagues.com/default.asp>

Writing and Art Contests

<http://www.amazing-kids.org/futurecontesto6.html>

Community Service

<http://teenink.com/Contests/CommunityC.html>

Doors to Diplomacy International Competition

<http://www.gsh.org/GSH/doors/index.html>

Science

<http://www.exploravision.org/>

Geography

<http://www.nationalgeographic.com/geographybee/index.html>

You can check out Renzulli Learning at

<http://www.renzullilearning.com/>

Contributed by Sheelah Sweeney



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