

★ OCTOBER CAC-GATE MEETING ★ OCTOBER CAC-GATE MEETING ★ OCTOBER CAC-GATE MEETING ★ OCTOBER CAC-GATE MEETING ★

The Community Advisory Committee for Gifted and Talented Education
cordially invites you to attend our bimonthly meeting featuring

Dr. Susannah Richards
Asst. Professor East Connecticut University

Topic: Connecting Kids and Books: The Parent Role

Tuesday, October 30, 2007, 6:30 p.m.

Location: I.U.S.D. Administration Center, 5050 Barranca Parkway, Irvine

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COORDINATOR'S MESSAGE

With the sun setting a bit earlier each day, we say our 'good-byes' to summer and welcome the beginning of the 2007-2008 school year. We hope everyone was able to begin the start of school with rested and ready minds eager with excitement and hope.

When the school year ended last June, approximately forty teachers from elementary and middle school levels began their summer by attending IUSD's GATE Professional Development. Teachers spent three days focusing on and practicing implementation of strategies of differentiating the curriculum to provide academic rigor and relevance for our gifted learners. Since the late 1990's, over 400 of Irvine's teachers have participated in this opportunity to better serve our gifted learners. Because of this level of commitment, our students benefit.

In August, I attended the World Council for Gifted and Talented Children Conference in Warwick, England. This week-long experience definitely proved to be a highlight in my professional life. Delegates representing 63 countries attended and exchanged ideas regarding giftedness and talent. Each day we met together for breakfast where conversations centered on the way different cultures create policies and practices for gifted and talented children. We would attend sessions throughout the day, and then meet together for dinner and have further discussions about what we had learned throughout the day. After dinner we would head off to a destination to learn about some of England's historical events; when we returned, our conversations would continue into the late evening.

Presenters from all over the world offered opportunities for us to learn from each other. There were several outstanding speakers: Professor John Geake from the University of Oxford discussed his research on the neural foundations of high creative intelligence.

Dr. Chris Yapp, head of the Public Sector Innovation at Microsoft UK, shared his ideas about learning in the future. Dr Elena Grigorenko, associate professor of child studies and psychology at Yale University and associate professor of psychology at Moscow State University, focused on child development from around the world. Professor Jiannong Shi, a psychologist specializing in and Director of the Centre for Supernormal Children of China, shared his research in the field of giftedness and creativity.

At the top of the "standout presentations" list was Professor François Gagné, Université du Québec à Montréal. Gagné is known for his Differentiated Model of Giftedness and Talent (DMGT). For me, François Gagné has celebrity status in the world of gifted, so to be able to hear him speak in person was beyond exciting. Dr. Gagné addressed information on the four components necessary for gifted students to appropriately achieve success.

These components begin with natural ability, the raw material we are born with. The easier or faster the learning process, the greater the natural abilities are. Talent development, the second component, is the process of developing one's talent through systematic learning; it's the transformation of natural ability into well-trained and developed skills.

The last two factors facilitate or hinder talent development; intrapersonal and environmental catalysts. Among the intrapersonal is motivation, which plays a crucial role in initiating talent development. It's through motivation where one is able to persevere through obstacles, boredom, and occasional failure. Environment encompasses influences such as demographic, socio-economic, educational, parenting style, etc...

The impact of Gagné's presentation was especially powerful as we focused attention on the role environment plays in talent development. Gagné explained that environment, particularly in the classroom, was the 'weakest link' in developing talent. After reflecting on the impact schools have on talent development, he concluded his presentation with this final thought: "Imagine what could occur for gifted students if schools were no longer the 'weakest link.'"

When he was finished, everyone was on their feet, applauding with emotion.

By the end of the week, the four goals of the World Council for Gifted and Talented Children had been achieved:

- to assemble people from all over the world interested in gifted and talented children, for an exchange of ideas and experiences,

(Continued on next page)

Advisor: Beth Andrews, IUSD GATE Coordinator.
The GATER is published quarterly by the Community Advisory Committee for Gifted and Talented Education (CAC-GATE).
Important information can be found at http://iusd.org/parent_resources/gate/gate.htm.
If you have any questions, comments, suggestions or articles, please call GATE office at (949) 936-5120.

- to disseminate the findings of research into the nature of giftedness, talents, creativity, and the education and development of gifted and talented children,
- to establish means for a continuing worldwide exchange of ideas, experiences, and teaching and teacher-training techniques relevant to gifted and talented children,
- to create a climate of acceptance and recognition that gifted and talented children are a valuable global asset whether disabled or able bodied, from advantaged or disadvantaged backgrounds, or from developing or developed countries.

In the two months since this conference, I've stayed in touch with colleagues from three countries. We're still sharing ideas and making plans for continued collaboration.

Irvine's GATE program is fortunate to have such a dedicated CAC-GATE board: Terry Freedlander, Chairperson; Larry Kaplan, Treasurer; Jeffrey Lu, Vice-Chair; and Wendy Bokota, Secretary. They are a dedicated group serving Irvine's gifted students and their families. This year offers many opportunities for you to become more involved with the CAC-GATE. We hope you will plan on attending the meetings and other events held throughout the year:

- Oct. 27 – OCC-GATE Conference, UCI (www.occgate.org)
 Oct. 30 – CAC-GATE meeting featuring Dr. Susannah Richards, IUSD District Office (<http://www.njagc.org/index.php?name=PNphpBB2&file=viewtopic&p=874>)
 Jan. 29- CAC-GATE meeting featuring Dr. Ed Zaccaro, IUSD District Office (<http://www.challengemath.com>)
 Apr. 24- CAC-GATE meeting featuring Dr. Jim Delisle, IUSD District Office (<http://www.piecesoflearning.com/consult/jdintro.htm>)
 Feb. 15-17 – CAG Annual Conference, Anaheim, CA (www.cagifted.org)

Though our days will have less sunlight and our time will be more scheduled, we are already off to an outstanding start. I hope to see you in October.

Sincerely,

Beth L. Andrews

THANK YOU!

To Board Member Gavin Huntley-Fenner for his continued support and efforts as IUSD School Board Liaison to the GATE and APAAS programs.

2006-2007 Teacher Mini-Grant Award Winners

IUSD's GATE Community Advisory Committee awarded several teaching mini-grants to teachers in the district. These mini-grants allow for funding of teaching programs to promote innovation in curriculum. These grants are directed toward programs for the GATE and APAAS students within IUSD.

The mini-grant winners were: Maureen Leong of South Lake Middle School, Craig Ritter of Lakeside Middle School, Kristin Dayton of Greentree Elementary School, David Burke of Stone Creek Elementary School, Henry Miller of Sierra Vista Middle School and Sue West, Eric Manchester and Kathie Wilhelm of Santiago Hills Elementary School.

2007-2008 candidates must submit their grant proposals to the GATE Department, at the district office, by 5:00 pm October 22, 2007 to be considered for funding. No late grants or supplementary material will be accepted; no exceptions may be made.

Otis-Lennon School Ability Test (OLSAT)

Optional test used for GATE identification
 for 3rd – 6th grade students
 November 7 through January 16, 2008
 Pre-registration and \$50 fee required
 Form available on-line at

http://www.iusd.org/parent_resources/gate/index.html

CAC-GATE CHAIRPERSONS' MESSAGE

By Terry Freedlander

On behalf of the Community Advisory Committee - GATE Board, I would like to welcome back continuing students and families, as well as new families. This is my first year serving as Chair of the CAC GATE Board. I look forward to working with our committed volunteer Board of Larry Kaplan, Treasurer, and Wendy Bokota, Secretary.

I would also like to encourage you all to get involved as active participants in the CAC/GATE parent group. We need your commitment to excellence in education for your children, as evidenced by the nurturing and support you provide to your children. Our Irvine schools would not be considered amongst the best in the nation if we did not have an active, committed parent community.

The CAC/GATE board looks forward to your involvement and support. We are hoping that our communication channels via Parent Reps are enhanced this year to further improve our ability to be advocates for our children. This will be one of my main goals this year, to solidify the core set of Parent Reps we have at our IUSD schools. The IUSD GATE program is exceptionally managed and coordinated by Beth Andrews and Wendy Pokorski. Beth is the GATE Coordinator, as well as a full-time 6th grade APAAS teacher at Santiago Hills. Beth has been in her role as GATE Coordinator for seven years. She brings a wealth of knowledge and insight to the GATE Program for IUSD. Her commitment and passion for developing the GATE and APAAS programs at IUSD is unparalleled. She works with the CAC-GATE Board, students, teachers, and Administrators bringing great stability and strength to the program. Wendy Pokorski is our "Go-To" person on everything GATE. She single-handedly manages the very popular GATE Day held in October—this is one of our most effective fund-raisers for the IUSD GATE Program. Wendy is comprehensive and thorough in her planning and communications, often working quietly behind the scenes ensuring that communication is clear, and meetings are scheduled and managed efficiently. Wendy also is the editor and writer for the GATER newsletter, our quarterly newsletter that goes out to GATE students. Beth and Wendy are critical to the ongoing development of our GATE program, and to the CAC/GATE Parent Group.

We are very excited to have Dr. Susannah Richards, from Eastern Connecticut State University, speaking on October 30 at 6:30 p.m. at IUSD Offices on Barranca Parkway. Please join us for this first parent meeting to hear Dr. Richards discuss Connecting Kids and Books: The Parent Role. This session will present strategies that parents can use to connect kids and books. Dr. Richards will provide strategies for how to share books with children in ways that will motivate them to pick up the book and read. Topics such as criteria for choosing books to read aloud, characteristics of a successful read aloud, how to use audio-books to expand the reading experience, choosing books for kids, helping them choose their own books, and strategies to use child interest as a vehicle to connect kids with fiction and nonfiction text will be explored. New and classic children's books will be used to illustrate the strategies and ideas.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

APAAS Parent Orientation

February 28, 2008

Oak Creek Elementary School

6:00 – 7:00 p.m.

2008 National Merit Semifinalists Named

CONGRATULATIONS!

These Irvine students are among 16,000 students from across the nation that received an honor.

Irvine High School: Sarah B. Chai, Tarun Jain, Mark M. Lee, Ann C. Lin, Tiffany Lin, Brian Peng, Yasaman Sabahi, Vincent Sung, Kevin W. Tham, Christine Thrasher, Esther S. Weon, Furui Xie, Yi Xie, Linfu Zhang

Northwood High School: Serena Chang, Kelly Ciurczak, Paige Dunn-Rankin, David Gao, Nicole Jaffe, Claire E. Kim, Sung-Min Kim, Jeannie J. Lee, Stephanie Lin, Vincent Liu, Jennifer Luh, Nathaniel Lum, David Michon, Jordan Monge, Sarah K. Ngu, Ryan T. Phan, Cass Song, Mark A. Wei, Ian Y. Wong, Victoria D. Wu, George Zhang

University High School: Shuokai Chang, Wendy Chang, Heather Chen, Justin Chin, Danny Cho, Kevin Chu, Andrew Dunnigan, Rajan Ganesh, Erin Jayne Gustafson, Michael Hirshleifer, Tiffany Hsu, Heather Humpleman, Ana Hur, Kirin Jessel, Jialin Jia, Jong Hun Kim, Brigitte La, Karen Lee, Ang Li, Jeffrey Linden, Grace Ma, Albert Magyar, Koki Nishimura, Jennifer Nobe, Christopher Olsen, Shawn Pan, Kanan Sindhu, Timothy Wu, Vivian Yee, Vivian Zhou

Woodbridge High School: Ella K. Fishman, Matthew C. Leung, Angela Lin, Adam R. Swan, Shiri Yadlin, Noah P. Young

The competition is based on the Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test (PSAT) taken during the student's junior year in high school. The semifinalists include the highest scorers in every state and represent the top half of 1% of the college bound seniors. These outstanding students will have an opportunity to advance in the competition for about 6,000 Merit Scholarships worth more than \$23 million.

Johns Hopkins University Talent Search 2008

Johns Hopkins University is sponsoring Talent Search 2008 for highly able and highly motivated students beginning in the second grade. The Talent Search provides an assessment of mathematical and verbal reasoning abilities, interpretive and guidance materials, and opportunities for students to be recognized and honored. Students may participate if they are at or above the 95th percentile on a most recent or next-most recent nationally normed standardized aptitude or achievement test.

Some of the benefits of Talent Search 2008 include:

- Assess a student's high academic talents and/or reveal previously unrecognized abilities.
- Receive statistical data about Talent Search participants; test scores by grade
- Be recognized by Johns Hopkins University for academic talent via certificates and awards
- Receive email news items for gifted students and their families, as well as updates on CTY's programs
- Potentially qualify for hundreds of courses offered by CTY's Summer Programs and Distance Education

CTY Talent Search application fee is \$35.00

Apply on-line at: www.cty.jhu.edu/ts/tests.html

**Note: You must first apply for the Johns Hopkins Talent Search and pay a nonrefundable \$35.00 fee. We recommend that you register early for the best selection of test dates and locations.*

Carol Smith Memorial Scholarship Winner



Christina Zhu of University High School was the first winner of this scholarship developed in honor of Carol Smith, a GATE and APAAS teacher who died in the summer of 2006. This scholarship is dedicated to the memory of Ms. Smith who was the catalyst for IUSD's Gifted Curriculum.

Christina now attends Stanford University and will likely focus on the sciences. Her high school accomplishments include winning a National Merit Scholarship, representing University High School at the regional and state Science Olympiad and Science Fair competitions, as well as graduating with a 4.4 GPA.

For individuals interested in donations to the Carol Smith Scholarship fund, please contact Larry Kaplan, CAC-GATE Treasurer, at lmkaplan@cox.net.

UCI Academic Talent Search (Grades 6-10)

The UCI Academic Talent Search (ATS) is for grades six through ten. It identifies students with extraordinary mathematical and/or verbal reasoning abilities, assists participants in their placement in pre-college programs, and offers information and materials which will aid parents and educators of high-ability students. By participating in ATS, students will gain valuable information about their mathematical and verbal abilities early in their academic career, enabling them to plan the most appropriate college-preparatory program.

To be considered for participation ATS, you must complete the following steps:

- **Complete** the Academic Talent Search application form. You may complete either a paper form or an electronic form. The electronic form is available at the ATS Website: www.admissions.uci.edu/ats/. Paper applications forms can be obtained by calling the UCI ATS Office; telephone (949) 824-5822.
- **Register** to take the PSAT or the SAT I. See chart for test locations, dates, and times. You may use your completed ATS application form to register for the PSAT when you apply for the Academic Talent Search. However, to take the SAT I, you must register for it separately through the College Board.
- **Mail** your completed application, fees and all required enclosures to UCI between October 3, 2007 and March 16, 2008. Complete all required items on your application in order to avoid a delay in processing.
- **Fee:** \$30.00 registration fee, in addition to testing fees (see ATS Website above).


Send all ATS Registration and PSAT fees to (make checks payable to UC Regents):

Academic Talent Search
204 Administration Building
University of California
Irvine, CA 92697-1075

When your application and fee payment are received (no later than two weeks prior to your chosen test date), you will be sent a confirmation, and a campus map. If you submitted an on-line application over the web, you will also receive a Parent Permission and Release of Information Form. You may either bring this form with you to the test location or mail it. This form must reach the ATS Office prior to your taking a test or attending a preparation seminar.

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Community Advisory Committee for Gifted and Talented Education
I.U.S.D., 5050 Barranca Parkway, Irvine, CA 92604, (949) 936-5120



OCTOBER, 2007

CALENDAR FOR 2007-2008

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- October 15 **GATE Enrichment Day** – Fun-filled day for APAAS/GATE identified students in 4th – 6th grades.
PROGRAM IS FULL
 - October 15 **Staff Development Day** – Schools not in session K-12. School staff involved with professional development and program improvement.
 - October 17 **Ask-A-Scientist Night** – Rancho Middle School 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. (Grades 6-12)
 - October 27 **OCC-GATE Conference at UCI (for parents and teachers)** – Keynote Speaker, Karen Rogers Ph.D.,
Featured Speaker – Sandra Kaplan, Ed.D.
 - October 30 **Community Advisory Committee (CAC-GATE) Meeting** – Administration Center, 5050 Barranca, Irvine, 6:30 p.m. **Guest Speaker** – Susannah Richards
 - November 3 **SAT and subject tests** – register by October 2, 2007
 - Nov. 7-Jan. 16 **Otis-Lennon School Ability Test (OLSAT)** – 3rd – 6th grade students can take this optional test to become GATE identified.
Registration material available at http://www.iusd.org/parent_resources/gate/index.html
 - November 7-11 **NAGC (National Assoc for Gifted Children) Convention –Minneapolis**
 - December 1 **SAT and subject tests – register by October 30, 2007**
 - January 29 **Community Advisory Committee (CAC-GATE) Meeting** – Administration Center, 5050 Barranca, Irvine, 6:30 p.m. – Guest Speaker – Ed Zaccaro
 - January 26 **Astounding Inventions of the Future** – Irvine Valley College (Grades K-8)
 - January 26 **SAT and subject tests – register by December 26, 2007**
 - February 28 **APAAS Parent Orientation** – Oak Creek Elementary 6 – 7 p.m.
 - February 15-17 **CAG (California Association for Gifted) 46th Annual Conference, Anaheim**
 - May 3 **SAT and subject tests – register by April 1, 2008**
 - March 5 **District Science Fair** – Irvine High School (Grades 6-12)
 - April 24 **Community Advisory Committee (CAC-GATE) Meeting** – Administration Center, 5050 Barranca, Irvine, 6:30 p.m. – **Guest Speaker** – Dr. Jim Delisle
 - April 29 **Honors Vocal and Instrumental Concerts – 7:00 pm** – Calvary Chapel, Santa Ana
 - June 7 **SAT and subject tests – register by May 6, 2008**
 - Jun. 30-Jul. 25 Summer School – Grades K-8

All Dates Are Not Confirmed and Subject to Change.