

## 2011 MCGT Conference Adult Session Presenters

**Megan Bearce** is a licensed Marriage and Family Therapist in private practice with a focus of supporting gifted women. A mother of two and a former CPA, she has first-hand experience with the challenges and excitement involved in parenting, changing careers and relocating across the country.

**Wendy Behrens** is the MN Dept. of Education Gifted and Talented Education Specialist, Central Regional Director for the Council of State Directors of Programs for the Gifted, chair of Development and Fund Raising for the National Association for Gifted Children, previous gifted/talented coordinator in the Red Wing, MN, school district, and a former consultant for the Science Museum of Minnesota.

**Teresa Boatman** is a licensed Psychologist specializing in gifted children and adults. Her work focuses on helping children, adults, and families find solutions in their real world situations, and she is a former president of MCGT.

**Karl Bunday** is a homeschooling parent, math coach for Edina Center for Academic Excellence and past president of MCGT.

**Richard Cash**, Ed.D. is the Director of Gifted and Talented Programs, K-12, for the Bloomington Minnesota Public Schools and a consultant to schools throughout the United States and Internationally. He is the author of *Advancing Differentiation: Thinking and Learning for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*.

**Stuart Dansinger** is a licensed psychologist and licensed school psychologist in private practice specializing in gifted and talented children and adults. He has been a member of MCGT since 1968 and received the MCGT Friend of the Gifted in 2009.

**Robert Freric** is a student leader, Loaves & Fishes program serving the hungry and homeless, East Lake Street, Minneapolis, MN. He is a National Honor Society and campus ministry member and serves as student body president at the Academy of Holy Angels.

**Terry Friedrichs** is a Mendota Heights assessor, tutor, and Kindergarten through college consultant. He specializes in gifted students with attentional, learning, and emotional challenges, and gifted youth with Asperger's syndrome and works with many gifted leaders. He researches programs that meet all these students' needs.

**Ray Frigard** is an inventor, designer and author/educator who teaches Creative Problem Solving in grades K-8 and adult education. He has numerous patents and creativity awards for his inventions and fine art sculpture.

**Amos Asher Gewirtz** is a recipient of a Minnesota State Scholars of Distinction Award in History. He is co-editor of the Henry Sibley High School newspaper, and he recently completed an internship with a member of British Parliament.

**Thomas Greenspon** is a psychologist, marriage and family therapist, and author in private practice with his wife, Barbara. They are past co-presidents of MCGT and have worked with gifted and talented children and adults for 35 years. Tom speaks locally and nationally on the emotional lives of gifted individuals, and has written extensively on perfectionism.

**Diane Heacox** is an Associate Professor of Education at St. Catherine University, actively serves as a consultant and professional development trainer for schools on a variety of topics related to teaching and learning, presents at local, state, national, and international education conferences, and is the author of three books with Free Spirit Publishing.

**Joan Johnson** is the Young Scholars/Gifted specialist at Parkview Elementary in Apple Valley. She served as one of the pilot site directors of the Young Scholars program in District 196 and has been involved in writing many of the programming efforts.

**Bill Keilty**, Ed. D. is the parent of 4 gifted boys. He established and directs the Lighthouse Program, a unique program for the highly gifted in Spring Lake Park, and also teaches at Hamline University. Bill is on the executive board of the MN Educators of the Gifted and Talented (MEGT) and is the Minnesota Liaison for the Center for Talent Development (CTD) which sponsors Northwestern University's Academic Talent Search program (NUMATS).

**Jane Kise** is an educational consultant. The author of over 20 books, she works with schools on differentiated instruction. She is also the parent of two gifted young adult children.

**Dana Koletar** is the parent of three gifted children and longtime member of MCGT. She co-founded the Lakeville chapter of MCGT, received MCGT's Friend of the Gifted award, and has coached math teams for six years. Dana is currently the Associate Director of the MN State High School Math League.

**Araela Kumaraea** specializes in creativity and creative intelligence and is on the faculty of the Graduate School of Education at St. Mary's University. She is on the MCGT board of directors and is the mother of a profoundly gifted teenage daughter.

**Nathan Levy** is an internationally-known gifted consultant, teacher and coordinator of gifted and has been a school principal for 27 years. He is the author of *Stories with Holes*, *There Are Those*, *Not Just Schoolwork* and many other books used in gifted programs.

**Stephanie Madson** is the Young Scholar/Gifted building specialist at Southview Elementary in Apple Valley and has completed graduate work in gifted education at the University of St. Thomas.

**Teresa Manzella** is Gifted Children's Coordinator, MN Mensa, one of three founding charter members of NAGC GLBTQ Special Interest Group, and graduate student in Gender Studies.

**Pam McDonald** is the Teacher On Special Assignment for Elementary Gifted Programming for District 196. She has been involved with gifted education for over 20 years and has completed her graduate work in gifted education from the University of St. Thomas.

**Celine McNelis-Kline**, EdD, is an assistant professor in the Health Promotion and Wellness department at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point.

**Jodi Miller**, M. A. Ed., is a National Merit Scholar, a teacher with 10 years of public school experience, a parent of gifted children, and currently an enrichment tutor and child care provider at BIRD's Learning Center. She is an avid gardener who enjoys birdwatching in her backyard habitat.

**Karen Rogers** is a professor of gifted studies at the University of St. Thomas and has published numerous books, book chapters, journal articles, and gifted curricula. Her research interests include cognitive processing, arts education, creativity, curriculum and instructional systems development, and twice exceptional education.

**Deborah Ruf**, Ph.D., Minneapolis, is a private consultant and specialist in gifted assessment, test interpretation, and guidance for the gifted. Experienced as a parent, teacher and administrator in elementary through graduate education, she writes and speaks about school issues and social and emotional adjustment of gifted children and adults.

**Allie Specht** is a student leader, Loaves & Fishes program serving the hungry and homeless, East Lake Street, Minneapolis, MN. She is a National Honor Society and campus ministry member and captain of the girls' swim team at the Academy of Holy Angels.

**Mary Spychalla** has been a middle school teacher for over 30 years, GT coordinator at a District #196 middle school for 20 years, District #196 Middle School GT Teacher on Special Assignment for four years and coordinator of an online class for highly gifted students for the past two years.

**Carmen Tschofen**, M.A. is a transdisciplinary researcher focusing on cultural change and learning futures. Her work encompasses the influences of new media and technology landscapes, open education philosophies, complex adaptive systems, and networked and transformative learning. She applies her research daily in navigating learning complexity with two gifted teenagers.

**Ed Zaccaro** is a teacher and a presenter at math and gifted education conferences around the country. He has taught students of all ages and abilities, has been an advocate for gifted education as a parent, teacher, and school board member, and is the author of six math books for mathematically gifted children.