

2012 MCGT Conference Adult Session Presenters

Tina Armstrong is the current President of MCGT and is a member of the Minnesota Department of Education's Gifted Advisory Council. She is a lifelong advocate for gifted children. Prior to her term as President of MCGT, Tina handled public policy for the organization.

Lee Baker is an academic transition specialist in addition to being the parent of a gifted/talented child with a significant learning disability. Lee championed her child's K-12 and college education and utilizes her accumulated knowledge to prepare students for successful transitions from high school to higher education.

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, Treasurer of 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. She is a former president of MCGT.

Tamiko Castile is a coordinator for the Saint Paul Public Schools Gifted Services department. She has extensive experience in academic and social support programs for students. Ms. Castile obtained a B.A. in Professional Communication from Metropolitan State University and a M.A. in Educational Leadership from Saint Mary's University of Minnesota.

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 was named the MCGT Friend of the Gifted in 2009.

Deborah Douglas coordinated gifted education in Manitowoc (WI) for 20+ years. As President of the Wisconsin Association for Talented and Gifted, she advocates for children in the Upper Midwest and beyond. She currently lives in Madison with her husband, Ray Aldag. Between them they have four talented children and Lily, a gifted Bichon.

Erika Kluge Frake, director of THINK with Success, is an educator and assistive technology specialist who provides education for students in grades two throughout college on assistive technology (AT) and technology tools for enhancing academics in the areas of reading, writing, note-taking, comprehension, test-prep, and executive functioning.

Terry Friedrichs is a Mendota Heights tutor and school consultant, who for 35 years has worked with gifted students from various racial/ethnic, ability/disability, and many other groups.

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. For more information on Ray Frigard and the Arthink methodology please go to: www.crayfrigard.com.

Tom Greenspon is a psychologist, marriage and family therapist, and award-winning author, in private practice with his wife, Barbara. Tom is known locally and nationally for his work with gifted and talented children, adults, couples, and families. Tom and Barbara are former Co-Presidents of MCGT.

Catherine Hua is a national championship fencer and National Merit Commended student at the Blake School.

Sarah Lauer, a junior at Rogers Senior High School, has consistently excelled in academics despite chronic health challenges and intermittent school absences. She has consistently earned her place on her school's Honor Roll.

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.

Teresa Manzella is president and Gifted Children's Coordinator for MN Mensa and a member of the American Mensa Gifted Youth Committee. She holds a Master of Liberal Studies degree, the focus of which addresses the challenges facing youth who are gifted and GLBTQ, and is a member of Maplewood's Human Rights Commission.

Peter Meilahn is a biofeedback oriented psychotherapist and Human Computer Interaction developer. He's worked with giftedness and spoken at The University of Minnesota Medical Center & The Learning Disability Association of MN. He founded The Minnesota Biofeedback Clinic & www.brainconditioner.com. There's an upcoming documentary on his theories of development and media.

Deantha Menon, M.A. (Special Education), is a mother of two "twice exceptional" sons. Deantha advocates with and for students seeking to meet their academic and special needs in the public education system.

Nancy Mulhern is a member of Fortin Consulting, Inc., with a background in environmental engineering and in development of youth leadership programs, domestically and internationally. She previously worked with the US Department of State's secondary school exchange programs, is on the Children's Culture Connection curriculum advisory committee, and participates in 2e advocacy for one of her own children and as a volunteer.

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.

Samantha Sawyer, M.A. CCC-SLP, is Founder and Clinician at Brightening Connections, LLC in Saint Paul, Minnesota. She is a Nationally Certified Licensed Speech Pathologist (since 2004) and Certified Parent Coach whose passion is *teaching caregivers fun and easy ways to overcome challenging behaviors and advance their child's development using natural techniques*. Samantha empowers parents to be the expert and reveal their child's unique skills while enhancing the Family Dynamic with her innovative and holistic "5 Polka Dot" approach.

Dr. Stephen Schroeder-Davis is a curriculum & GT specialist with the Elk River Area School District and an adjunct professor at Saint Mary's University, where he teaches graduate and gifted certification courses. He is a regular contributor to *Understanding our Gifted* and *Gifted Education Press* and speaks frequently on issues related to gifted education.

Bill Stockton is a private education consultant and mediator. For 29 years he was a school psychologist working extensively with G/T students, including a program of 125+ "highly gifted" students in grades K-12. He has instructed both children and adults in meditation techniques.

Mary L. Wandrei, PhD, is a psychotherapist with offices in Shoreview and Woodbury, MN. She specializes in assessment, coaching, and therapy for gifted and talented children and adults; Asperger's Syndrome screening and consultation; school adjustment and educational planning; and consultation around executive functioning, anxiety, depression, sensory processing, and temperament issues.

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.