

2013 MCGT Presentation Proposals

2E: a Universal Designation for Gifted Students? – Stephen Schroeder-Davis

All gifted students face the handicapping condition of grade level curriculum **and** have at least one of five “over-excitabilities.” Thus, all gifted students are at least “2E.” Gifted students who are traditionally considered “2E,” are in fact, **thrice** exceptional. In this session, we will explore the necessity of considering all gifted students as “exceptional,” and deserving of the same intensity of interventions as traditional special education students.

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.

Benefits and Problems of IB Coursework for Gifted Student – Elliot Strand, Rachel Peterson, Terry Friedrichs

There are many advantages and some disadvantages to International Baccalaureate (IB) programming for high-potential students at various grade levels, according to research in gifted education journals and according to student and educator experiences. Dr. Friedrichs presents some empirically-supported strengths and challenges for IB programming at the elementary and middle school levels, while Ms. Peterson comments on the literature-cited advantages and the disadvantages of IB coursework for senior high students. Both presenters then offer their personal experiences with the quality of IB programs.

Rachel Peterson, a junior in Hastings High School’s IB sequence, is currently interning at the U of M’s Stem Cell Institute. She especially enjoys advanced biology, chemistry and math. The past two years, she has earned a “Top Ten” Award, for the students with the highest grades in her class. Rachel is an accomplished cellist and raised a 2013 MN State Fair award-winning goat. **Terry Friedrichs** has educated both gifted and learning-disabled (LD) students, in Science and a range of other K-12 subjects, for 35 years. He frequently explains to parents, educators, and students themselves the interesting, multifaceted federal definitions of giftedness and of reading, writing, and math disabilities, as well as the benefits of IB programs in Science and many other subjects. He presently directs Friedrichs Education, a one-on-one Mendota Heights, MN assessment-and-tutoring-center serving a spectrum of high-potential youth.

The Benefits of a Multilingual Education for Gifted and Talented Learners – Zvi Geffen

Gifted and talented youth often love to seek challenges. One of the best ways to encourage discovery is through experiential learning in another world language and culture. Young people learn to appreciate the world by becoming better informed global citizens through music, cuisine, athletics, and much more. In a culturally authentic environment, students can increase their interpersonal skills by interacting in a different language. Several studies show the benefits of being bilingual at a very young age, and enhanced brain development results in a strong grasp of other subjects as well.

Zvi Geffen is the Village Program Representative for Concordia Language Villages, the culturally authentic immersion camp in Northern Minnesota for youth, adults, educators and families during the summer and the academic year. Since 1961, the program has promoted global citizenship through experiential learning in 15 world languages.

A Conversation with Dr. Ann Robinson

Come prepared to enjoy a “coffee-and-conversation-style” hour with Dr. Robinson as she answers questions and converses with parents and educators who have concerns about and an interest in gifted and talented children and their education.

Earning College Credits in High School with CLEP – Cheri Frame

Studying US History? How about Algebra? This workshop will help you learn how to translate your student's high school studies into college credit for under \$100. Credit-by-exam is a widely accepted alternative to earning credit for introductory college courses, and is available to students at any age. Gaining a new-found sense of motivation for their current studies, students can save thousands of dollars in college tuition. This session includes an overview of two popular programs and resources to help you get started today. For parents with students in grade 6 – 12.

Cheri Frame founded Credits Before College, LLC to help families and students understand and take advantage of their affordable college credit options while they are still in high school. She presents workshops to local groups and at state conventions, is a CLEP consultant with the College Board, provides affordable individual family counseling, and offers a wealth of resources on her website www.CreditsBeforeCollege.com.

Encouraging Excellence Without Pushing Perfection – Tom Greenspon

How do we encourage kids to “be all they can be,” without creating perfectionists? Perfectionism is the desire to be perfect, the fear of imperfection, and the emotional conviction that perfection is the route to personal acceptability. Mistakes are seen as signs of personal defects; perfectionism is a self esteem issue. While the pursuit of excellence is vitalizing, perfectionism's inseparable dark side is the intense anxiety about never being good enough. Perfectionism is not part of giftedness, though gifted kids can be vulnerable. Find out what perfectionism is, where it comes from, and how to encourage excellence, not perfection.

Tom Greenspon is a psychologist, marriage and family therapist, and award-winning author of professional articles and two books on perfectionism. He is known locally and nationally for his work with G/T children, adults, couples, and families. Tom and his wife Barbara are former Co-Presidents of MCGT.

Enrichment as a Tool for Motivation and Engagement – Wendy Behrens

Students spend only 20% of their time in school. How they spend the other 80% of the time has profound implication for their well-being and future. Quality afterschool programs provide engaging learning activities in a safe and supportive environment. These programs can meet students' needs for personal attention from adults, inclusion in positive peer groups, and enjoyable experiential activities that build self-esteem. Through enrichment students may explore areas of interest and acquire skills that lead to post-secondary success and career paths. In this session we will explore strategies for selecting enrichment that engages students and extends learning beyond the classroom.

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.

Expanding Educational Options: Individual Advocacy – Katherine Geary and Joe Wenc

Being an effective advocate for your gifted child is often challenging, and typically requires significant planning, time and effort. The work, however, is worth it. This breakout session will focus on identifying your child's educational priorities, the basis for effective advocacy. Effective strategies for collaborating with the school, successful communication techniques and tips on how to overcome obstacles to advocacy will be discussed. There will be time for discussion, exchange of practical ideas and problem solving.

Kathy Geary, the parent of two gifted young adults, has served on the MCGT Board of Directors since 2004 and is currently the chapter contact for MCGT's Rosemount-Apple Valley-Eagan (RAVE) Chapter. In 2011, she joined the Minnesota Institute of Talented Youth's (MITY) Board of Directors. **Joe Wenc** is former President (2009-2012) and current Leadership Team member of the Eden Prairie Chapter of MCGT. As a parent, he has successfully advocated for subject and grade acceleration for his children. He has also advocated for district level changes by serving on multiple committees in the Eden Prairie school district (Strategic Planning Committee, GT Services Review Task Force, Full Time GT Program Committee).

Finding the Right Fit – Sally Wherry and Wendy Behrens

PSEO, AP, CIS, IB, CTE are more than alphabet soup. In this session Minnesota Department of Education specialists will discuss options for high school students to earn college credit before graduation. Presenters will discuss some of the factors that increase student success, including motivation, time management, communication, self-discipline, and basic technology skills. Tools for finding the best fit will be shared and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and Privacy Laws will be reviewed.

Sally Wherry is the Minnesota Department of Education's High School Dual Credit, Alternative Learning and Online Learning Supervisor. **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.

Gap Years: Time "Off" is not Time Wasted – Teresa Manzella

Gifted kids need out-of-the-box thinking when it comes to finding interesting ways to learn. Grade skips, other forms of acceleration, uncertainty about what to be when one grows up—one or more of these can make a young, gifted person want to have extra time to think about college and/or graduate school. A gap year (or more) can be a great solution. In this presentation, options and benefits of gap years will be discussed. In addition, some of the pitfalls and things to be prepared for will be addressed. Come prepared to ask lots of questions!

Teresa Manzella is president and Gifted Youth 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 the parent of two gifted kids who took gap years.

Get a Life: the Power of Biography – Ann Robinson

Engage the primary, elementary, and middle-school talented readers in your homes and classrooms with fascinating books, creative activities, and rich primary sources. Explorers, artists, musicians, scientists, writers, and other memorable people are the subjects of compelling life stories that help children and adolescents understand their own talents. This interactive, hands-on session provides a look at exemplary biographies and encourages parents and educators to engage in differentiated activities from the Blueprints for Biography guides developed at the Jodie Mahony Center for Gifted Education. Participants will have the opportunity to browse biographies, participate in activities, and leave with a bibliography of recommended trade biographies for talented readers.

Giftedness, the Autism Spectrum, and the New DSM-5 – Mary Wandrei

Characteristics associated with giftedness can both overlap with and be distinguished from characteristics of autism spectrum disorders (ASDs). The American Psychiatric Association has significantly changed its diagnostic approach to ASDs in its 2013 release of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual (5th Edition). We will discuss how concepts and diagnoses related to ASDs can help or hinder our understanding of and work with gifted individuals.

Mary L. Wandrei, PhD, is a psychotherapist in Shoreview, MN. She specializes in assessment, coaching, and therapy for gifted and talented children and adults; autism spectrum screening/consultation; school adjustment and educational planning; and consultation around executive functioning, anxiety, depression, sensory processing, and temperament issues.

Helping Gifted Girls Grow Up: Tools to Navigate Adolescence and Beyond – Meagan Bearce

This session will explore the influence of giftedness on the life experiences of teenage girls and women including: perfectionism, self-esteem, hiding talents, feeling different, "should's", and relationships with family

and friends. Discussion will include tips on navigating stressors, finding school or work/life balance, what is therapy, and how to find the right therapist as another option for support. Parents of gifted children are typically gifted as well and as such, those same unique issues often continue into adulthood. The goal of the session is to provide tools to support both parents and their children.

Megan Bearce is a licensed Marriage and Family Therapist in private practice with a focus of supporting stressed-out career women, “supermoms,” gifted girls, and super commuter couples and has been working with clients for over a decade. A mother of two and former CPA, she has first-hand experience with the challenges and excitement involved in parenting, changing careers, and relocating across the country. She is the author of the new book *Super Commuter Couples: Staying Together When A Job Keeps You Apart* (Equanimity Press).

High-End Differentiation for Gifted Students – Stephen Schroeder-Davis

Given the remedial emphasis of No Child Left Behind, Race to the Top, Response to Intervention and state accountability tests, differentiation for gifted and high achieving students is often neglected. This session will provide educators ways to challenge students who need enrichment rather than remediation.

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.

Homeschool Options and Ideas - Q & A Panel

A panel of current MCGT Homeschoolers will answer general questions about homeschooling in a relaxed question and answer format. They will present the many options one has for full-time, part-time and pull-out homeschooling. They will also present a variety of general options and ideas for day to day homeschooling, such as curriculum, co-ops, field trips, activities, and yes, "socialization"! :) If you're thinking of homeschooling but still not sure, just starting to homeschool and desperately looking for a life-line, or a veteran homeschooler looking for fresh ideas, then this is the place for you! We're here to help!

How to Make Friends: Accelerate your Gifted Child's Social Skills – Samantha Sawyer

Do power struggles rule your family life? Gifted children may excel academically but struggle with unwritten social rules. Learn natural techniques to build your child’s social skills at home and improve their self-esteem so they can make friends! Gain three cutting-edge secrets from the *5 Polka Dot Potion* to naturally engage your gifted child's brain for optimal social and emotional intelligence. Overcome the social isolation that leads to challenging behaviors; create simple interactions that are pleasant and inspire your child to connect with skill and ease.

Samantha Sawyer, M.A. SLP, is Founder of Brightening Connections LLC and the holistic *5 Polka Dot Potion*. She is a 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 gives them all the credit for revealing their child's happy side.

Innovative Programming for Gifted Secondary Students – Richard Cash

Bloomington’s Dimensions Academy, the district’s program for profoundly gifted students in grades 4-8 is expanding to the high school level in the fall of 2014. Dimensions Academy High School is designed for students in grades 9-10 who are ready to tackle college-level courses prior to their eligibility for Post-Secondary Enrollment Options (PSEO) in grades 11-12. The new program is a joint venture between Bloomington Public Schools and Normandale Community College, designed to accelerate profoundly gifted students into college level courses in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM). Join this session to hear how the district has designed this innovative program and the qualifications for placement.

Dr. Richard Cash, former Director of Gifted Programs for the Bloomington Public Schools, is an internationally recognized expert, consultant, professional developer and author in the field of gifted education. His newest book, co-authored with Dr. Diane Heacox, *Differentiation for Gifted Learners; Going Beyond the Basics*, was released in October 2013.

Legislation and the Gifted Learner – Wendy Behrens

Every Minnesota child is entitled to a challenging and appropriate education. In this session we will review legislation that pertains to identification, acceleration, funding, PSEO, parental curriculum review, early entrance and admission to kindergarten and first grade.

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.

Levels of Giftedness: How Unusual is Your Child? – Deborah Ruf

Dr. Ruf's signature work in levels of giftedness helps the audience to recognize how diverse the gifted population is, what signs to look for in identifying gifted children as early as their toddler years, how to tease apart and take advantage of different tests and assessments for high intelligence, and how to meet the social and emotional needs of this population.

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.

The New Myths and Facts about Giftedness – Karl Bunday

Does gifted education research check its sources? Academic psychology has been racked by scandals involving made-up data. Now psychology struggles to prove it is really a science. This workshop advises parents and professionals how to check sources to make sure that advice to families of gifted learners is based on research and worthwhile to apply. Specific examples of especially controversial advice will be included.

Karl Bunday is a founding director and mathematics coach at Edina Center for Academic Excellence and parent program director for Epsilon Camp. He is currently past president of MCGT. He is an experienced mathematics team coach and a member of the Mathematical Association of America, the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics, and the International Society for Intelligence Research. His current research topics include education of gifted students, mathematics education, and selective college admissions.

Parenting All Types of Brains – Jane Kise

If you struggle with parenting your gifted child, or any child, this session is for you. Not all gifted children are the same—and using the same parenting strategies on all can lead to disaster, *especially if your children aren't wired like you*. Hear from a parent of two gifted children (now young adults) who is also an expert in personality type, describe how this rich theory assists in navigating land mines including discipline, homework, and family togetherness. Take a peek into the brains of students with different personality types for “seeing is believing” evidence of the need for different parenting approaches.

Jane Kise, Ed.D. is an education consultant and executive coach. The author of over 20 books, she speaks worldwide on leadership, collaboration, and instructional coaching for improving classroom differentiation.

Parenting Gifted Children: Perspectives Based on Over Forty Years Experience as a Professional and as a Parent – Stuart Dansinger

In my work and experience with gifted individuals of all ages, I have learned a great deal that I would like to share with you. Among other things, I will discuss: modeling values and beliefs, helping children understand

their giftedness, communication issues, problem solving, expectations, self regulation, independence, risk taking, goal attainment, advocacy dealing with school related problems, emotional and social maturity, identifying strengths and weaknesses, and other conclusions I have reached. I will also share insights from my wife and children. What you do as a parent really matters so you might as well do it strategically. A question and answer session will follow the presentation.

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.

Powerful Strategies to Enhance the Learning of Gifted and Highly Capable Students – Mitch Maguire

This workshop explores numerous, proven ways to reach gifted learners in challenging ways. The objective is to have participants leave with a variety of new strategies and specific ideas to help pupils become better creative and critical thinkers. A variety of successful teaching and parenting techniques will be shared. Bring your thinking caps and your funny bones.

Mitch Maguire is an Education Consultant who presents workshops on enhancing critical and creative thought among children of all abilities, allowing them to succeed in any arena. As a former staffer at The Late Show with David Letterman, Mitch has seen the importance of being a creative, critical thinker in everyday life.

Practical Ideas for Improving Writing and Critical Thinking – Mitch Maguire

This workshop will help teachers assist their children in developing fluency of writing and thinking. They will develop options for problem-solving and critical thinking. Participants will gain time-saving strategies and creative ideas. A variety of writing and critical thinking activities that have been used successfully with gifted children will be shared in this engaging, interactive presentation.

Mitch Maguire is an Education Consultant who presents workshops on enhancing critical and creative thought among children of all abilities, allowing them to succeed in any arena. As a former staffer at The Late Show with David Letterman, Mitch has seen the importance of being a creative, critical thinker in everyday life.

Preparing for the Next Step for the College Bound Student: Developing the Habits of Mind Admission Counselors Cherish – Bill Keilty

What are the characteristics of effective, self-directed, creative problem solvers? What behaviors are reflected in successful college students? What are the indicators admission counselors consider in the selection process? How would parents, teachers and administrators create school and classroom conditions to learn, practice and assess a report students' growth toward mastery of these behaviors? In this session the attributes of efficient, intelligent problem solvers will be described. Supportive strategies and learning conditions intended to develop, communicate and assess these characteristics will be presented. Indicators of their mastery will be described.

Bill Keilty, Ed.D., developed and provides leadership for the Lighthouse Program in the Spring Lake Park Schools. Currently, he teaches graduate course work for Hamline University's Gifted Certificate Program. Bill is on the Board of MDE's G/T Advisory Council, the legislative liaison for the Minnesota Educators of the Gifted and Talented, Chair of the MEGT Foundation, and the Minnesota Liaison for the Center for Talent Development at Northwestern University in Evanston.

Responding to the Intensity of the Gifted Child in the Classroom and the Home – Teresa Boatman

We will discuss understanding and responding to the five overexcitabilities identified by Dabrowski as well as other areas of intensity (perfectionism, frustration tolerance, anxiety) seen in many gifted children. Learn various techniques and strategies that can be taught to students and used by adults to help intense people learn to moderate and cope with their personal view and responses to the world.

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.

Simple Learning Disabilities Definitions (and How Gifted Learning-Disabled Children Don't Fit Them) – Terry Friedrichs

Gifted youth with significant learning challenges may not easily fit traditional definitions of learning disabilities. The presenter first describes the K-12 federal definition of “reading, writing, and math disabilities” that gifted youth generally face. Then, he explains how gifted students’ problematic reading, writing, and math characteristics do not easily fit that “learning disability” definition. Finally, he states how parents and teachers can still successfully advocate, if they wish, for timely, effective, school-based LD services for high-potential students with reading, writing, and math challenges.

Terry Friedrichs has educated both gifted and learning-disabled (LD) students for 35 years. He frequently explains to parents, educators, and students themselves the interesting, multifaceted federal definitions of reading, writing, and math disabilities. He directs Friedrichs Education, a one-on-one Mendota Heights, MN assessment-and-tutoring-center serving many gifted LD youth.

Tips for Parents and Teachers Working with Twice Exceptional (2e) Children and Adults – Stuart Dansinger

Those with understanding, knowledge, and techniques used with gifted children with a disability (2e – twice exceptional) will likely produce much more success for that child. For parents and teachers to learn these effective strategies will take time and effort, including a long-term commitment. However, the payoff may be well worth the effort since these (2e) students will learn more, have improved social and emotional adjustment, will be better motivated to meet their goals, and will generally function better in adolescence and adulthood. This information is based on research and my professional experience. A question and answer session will follow the presentation.

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.

The Twice Exceptional Child in Early Childhood – Deantha Menon

This presentation addresses early identification of the twice exceptional child, using the public school district to evaluate and service the young child's special needs and understanding twice exceptionality.

Deantha Menon, mother of two, twice exceptional sons, has an MA in Special Education with an Early Childhood emphasis and certification on Social Inclusion. Deantha has worked with many families in Minnesota in helping them develop practical and productive relationships with their school districts in advocating for their twice exceptional children, in addition to working in school districts with children with behavioral, learning, medical and autism spectrum disabilities.

What's Motivation Got to Do With It? – Cindy Lea

Many gifted people find that they are exceptional at applying themselves when they are passionate or really interested but struggle greatly to get motivated when they aren't. This can have a huge negative effect on success in life. Using humor, videos, and stories of success, we will explore exciting new findings and effective strategies. Learn to understand yourself and your child better, feel less frustrated, and get better results.

Cindy Lea, MA, is a Licensed Associate Marriage and Family Therapist and ADHD Coach. She helps individuals and families learn to manage ADHD and create lives that are joyful and fulfilling. She presents at regional and national conferences and is known for her humor, accessible style and her boundless enthusiasm.

What To Do When Gifted Kids Explode – Anne Rinkenberger

Some gifted kids explode frequently, which can disrupt family life, peer relationships and school performance. Learn about several of the causes and reasons gifted kids lose control, and how to teach them skills to handle frustrations in their lives. Leave with tools to use immediately. Topics covered include sensitivities, intensities, executive functioning skills, anxiety, ADHD, sensory issues, Asperger's, parenting strategies, coping skills,

developmental changes, brain science, emotional and social needs of gifted children, perfectionism and stress reduction strategies.

Anne Rinkenberger, MS, LMFT is a family therapist practicing in St. Louis Park. She specializes in gifted children, adolescents, adults and families. She helps gifted kids with anxiety, depression, difficult life transitions, school problems, social issues, grief, executive functioning skills, family relationships and behavioral challenges.

Who are these People Anyway? Portraits from a Century of Concern for Talented Children – Ann Robinson

Gifted education is peopled with fascinating women and men whose lives surprise us and whose ideas challenge us to think deeply about gifted children, their upbringing, and their schooling. By examining the lives behind the names we know from a century of their contributions to our field, this session aims to enlighten, engage, and amuse. Our historical forebears in gifted education present a family portrait, but one in which everyone is looking in a different direction. Find out who couldn't plow a straight furrow on the farm. Learn which of our policy makers was a drum major in college. Who wrote poetry? Who painted pictures? And who got started with a visit from an encyclopedia salesman? Based on biographical inquiries undertaken by a group of leading scholars in the field, the *Illuminating Lives* project provides context for the important ideas that guide our practices at home and school today. Illustrated with photographs and pictures, the stories shared in this session shed light on a cast of characters we only thought we knew.

Young Gifted Children – Teresa Boatman

Join us for an introduction to the world of the gifted preschooler and early elementary age child. We will discuss how to identify giftedness in a child, the issues that make parenting and educating these children so challenging, and strategies to assist you in guiding your child(ren).

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.