NAGC 2007

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Purpose

The Research on Giftedness and Talent (RGT) Special Interest Group of the American Educational Research Association (AERA) deals with research studies that focus on how giftedness and talent are developed and nurtured. The SIG encourages both international and national studies involving qualitative and or quantitative methods in a wide variety of topics: Conceptions, Models, Identification, Programs and Practices, Counseling, Creativity, Thinking Skills, Disabilities, Parenting, and Diversity.

Dues: $10 (1 yr.) / $20 (2 yrs.) / Free for Graduate Students

For more information, or to join the SIG: http://www.aeragifted.org/
For information on the AERA Annual meeting: http://www.aera.net/meeting

NAGC 2007

Matthew Makel, Indiana University

The 54th Annual Meeting of the National Association for Gifted Children was held November 7-11th in Minneapolis. Our gracious host volunteers proudly donned yellow fleece vests serving the dual purposes of identifying them as people who could help as well as protecting them from the snow flurries that greeted conference attendees on Friday morning. With themes such as 10,000 Ideas in the Land of 10,000 Lakes! and Igniting Ideas & Innovations in Gifted, this year’s conference featured 350 breakout sessions ranging from the Neuroscience of Creativity and a discussion of online teacher education to the 2nd Annual Graduate Student Research Gala. Graduate students Jillian Gates of Purdue University and Jane Jarvis from the University of Virginia shared the honor of overall best submission for the gala.

The opening session and Saturday keynote address, given by Dean Keith Simonton and Robert Sternberg, respectively, packed the house and were extremely well received. Moreover, NAGC President Del Siegle jokingly announced that he had figured out how to get everyone to stay at the conference through noon on Sunday: schedule Minnesota favorite son Garrison Keillor as the closing speaker. Keillor, who was clearly a crowd favorite, told his audience that he initially thought he was speaking to the National Association of Gifted Children and planned to give an address on humility. Although he humbly claimed to know nothing about giftedness or gifted research, he urged his listeners not to overlook the importance of praising student dedication and hard work. Clearly Mr. Keillor does know a thing or two about educating students.

Attendance on Sunday was not limited to those yearning to return to Lake Wobegone. A standing room only audience attended a whirlwind session providing an update on all the research conducted in the last five years by the National Research Center on the Gifted and Talented given by Joe Renzulli, Sally Reis, Jean Gubbins, and Carolyn Callahan.

In 2008, NAGC will be held in Tampa, Florida, from October 30th through November 2nd.

CONGRATULATIONS JANE PIIRTO!

We are delighted to announce that Jane Piirto has been honored with the MenSA Lifetime Achievement Award for her work with gifted students and with teachers and for her model that is recognized nationally and internationally.

A special issue of the MenSA Research Journal will be devoted to seven of her scholarly articles in early 2008.
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