From the Chair

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It is difficult to believe that more than two months have passed since we all gathered for the AERA meeting in New York. What an eventful conference that was for our SIG. Professor Abraham Tannenbaum provided us with such a good send-off at our Monday evening business meeting and the rest was only up from that very high point. Professor Tannenbaum spoke to a packed room, many of whom were former students or acolytes, but many who were new to our field and anxious to hear from one of our history makers. His retrospective survey of the past 50 years in gifted education was enlightening. I suspect everyone present learned something they hadn’t known before that evening. What a pleasure and privilege it was to listen to one of the true scholars of our field. It makes one proud to be in it.

Dr. Michael Pyryt’s loss was greatly felt by all who were present. His wonderful sister read the paper he had had the foresight to prepare before he had left for Australia and all the events that followed. It was of his usual high quality – a meta-analysis of research. We will share this paper with you in future editions of our SIG’s publications.

The SIG held a celebration of Michael’s life and a tribute to him on Tuesday of AERA week in the mid-afternoon. Again, the room was packed with friends, colleagues, and family.

We were happy to find several of his Calgary colleagues present and only wish they had freely spoken of their own perspectives on Michael’s greatness at his home university. As it was, many thanks are accorded to the great number of people who did speak about their relationship with Michael and who shared many stories of his very unique and wonderful ways. His sister was particularly eloquent about the Michael she knew best. It helped us all to know Michael just a little bit better, even when we thought we did know him pretty well. He will be missed. As it was, we had the opportunity to speak our piece (or peace?) about Michael at this conference while his demise was still fresh in our minds. I believe next year’s conference will be even more difficult for us when his true presence will have been missed at two of the conferences he (and we) loved best.

In the meantime, our SIG goes on, with potential changes in the structure of the organization to come. We will keep you informed in the issues to come. In the meantime, my invitation still stands. I would love to hear from you about initiatives you think we should undertake, projects we should begin, and new directions we should follow. Please contact me with your ideas via email at kbrogers@stthomas.edu

Until we see each other again!

FROM THE CHAIR

KAREN ROGERS
President, AERA ROGAT SIG

CONGRATULATIONS MIRACA GROSS!

We are proud and delighted to congratulate Miraca Gross on her being awarded the Order of Australia. The Director of the Gifted Education Research, Resource and Information Centre at the University of New South Wales, Miraca was acknowledged for her service to education as an academic, researcher and author, from the design and delivery of programs and policies for gifted students and their teachers, to professional development and educational practice.