

# Gifted Children

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## Hello from the Editor

Dona Matthews  
*University of Toronto*

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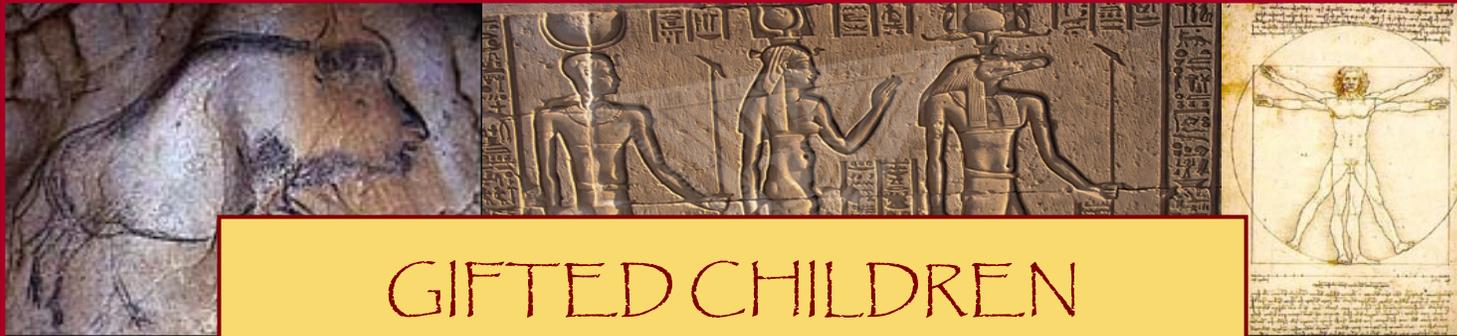
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# GIFTED CHILDREN

An Electronic Journal of the AERA SIG Research on Giftedness and Talent.

Volume 2 Number 2 Summer 2008

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## Hello from the Editor

Wherever you are, I hope this finds you well, and enjoying a welcome change of season.

We have one longer article in this edition of the AERA Research on Giftedness and Talent SIG's e-journal, Gifted Children: an article by David Lohman and Maureen Marron at the Institute for Research and Policy on Acceleration at the Belin-Blank Center for Gifted Education and Talent Development, The University of Iowa. Their article, entitled "Studying acceleration with national datasets and surveys: Some suggestions, some results, and our experiences," gives us an update of the pioneering investigations of acceleration that they and their colleagues are doing at the Belin-Blank Center. In addition to the research that they are conducting on this vitally important topic, it is worth noting that the experts at the Belin-Blank Center are providing consulting services to state departments of education and school districts that are considering writing or revising their policies on acceleration. If my professional experience is anything to go by, that includes – or soon will include – practically every jurisdiction in North America, and many internationally too.

Expertise is another of the fascinating frontiers of research for those of us interested in giftedness and talent development. I'm delighted that Renate Otterbach (who wrote a review for Roeper Review of the *Cambridge Handbook of Expertise and Expert Performance*) has agreed to write a short article for us about the impact and implications of expertise studies on our work. This could make an interesting topic for a symposium or roundtable discussion at AERA next year; if you are interested in participating, get in touch with Renate (see contact info with her article).

The original name of this publication – Gifted Children – was decided on quickly as a placeholder because we had to settle on a name just to get it going. But based on comments I have received, I think that it may not be as descriptive as it might be of our collective efforts at understanding the processes and practices related to gifted development and education. It would be great if we could find something more dynamic and less categorical. All suggestions are welcome! I look forward to hearing from you with your thoughts on a name change, and also with submissions for upcoming issues. This semi-annual e-journal is a quick and timely forum for sharing short (or longer) articles on what's interesting, engaging, and controversial in your work with high-ability learners, and what you're learning or reading or thinking about investigating in your own research.

*(continued on page 12)*



Undernourished, intelligence becomes like the bloated belly of a starving child: swollen, filled with nothing the body can use.

Andrea Dworkin

Jill Adelson  
Editor, SIGnificance

Would you like to share a short abstract or article about recent research you have conducted on giftedness and talent? Do you have some insights and thoughts into methodological issues in researching giftedness and talent? The Research on Giftedness and Talent SIG wants to hear from you! We now are accepting articles for our SIGnificant Research, SIGnificant Research Methodology, and SIGnificant Researcher sections, and we are open to considering other pieces for the SIG

newsletter, SIGnificance. We would like to start a tradition of a bi-annual newsletter, so please submit an article for consideration by August 1 for inclusion in the first fall issue of SIGnificance. Submissions should not exceed 1,000 words. For more information or submission, please contact Jill Adelson, newsletter editor, at [jill.adelson@uconn.edu](mailto:jill.adelson@uconn.edu). You can access current and past issues at <http://www.aeragifted.org>. ❖

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*("Hello from the Editor" - continued from page 1)*

Finally, none of us is unaffected when a colleague dies, and this year in losing Michael Pyryt we lost someone who has made important contributions to our field and touched many of our lives. Several people have written and delivered tributes to him, and in this issue we include the poem that Jane Piirto wrote and read in New York at the memorial service at AERA on March 25. Michael is sadly missed, and I thank Jane for allowing us to include this poem.

Before closing, I also want to say thank you to our layout editor, Leigh Kupersmith at the University of Indiana. She continues to be a wonderful partner in the efforts to bring this publication to life. I couldn't ask for anyone more cooperative, creative, and generous with her expertise. We all benefit from her attention to this project.

Looking forward to the ongoing dialogue with you all,

*Dona*

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