



Serving Florida's gifted students and their families since 1979

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# FLAG Banner

SPRING 2013

*FLAG's mission is to support educationally-appropriate programs for gifted students through exchanging information, promoting research, supporting constructive changes in all areas of gifted education, and cooperating with local and state organizations in reaching mutual goals and objectives in support of students who are gifted.*

## From the President

Dear FLAG Members,

It was fantastic that so many of you joined us at our annual conference April 5th-6th in Tampa! We are **proud as peacocks** that the event was incredibly well-attended and -received. Board members have fielded dozens of emails and memos from grateful participants ... and for that we are all very grateful, as it is always our mission to provide gifted advocates in our state with a high-quality product and experience. At this time, we are still working on the date and location of our 2014 conference ... as soon as it is set, we'll alert you so you can "pencil us in" on your calendar!

FLAG will be offering, however, an exciting opportunity in Sarasota County on Saturday, September 21st, that you'll want to make plans to attend! A one-day **symposium on gifted education and the Common Core State Standards** will take place from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. that day at the offices of Sarasota County's School Board at 1960 Landings

Boulevard in Sarasota.

**Carol Bailey**, our FL Department of Education gifted content specialist, and **Dr. Cheryl Adams**, FLAG Board member and coauthor of the National Association for Gifted Children's (NAGC) soon-to-be-published work on the new Next Generation Science Standards, will be keynoting the event. To complement those two powerhouses, FLAG will be facilitating break-out sessions and grade-level specific roundtable discussions on how the Common Core State Standards need to be remodeled for those working with gifted students in grades kindergarten through 12. You will not want to miss this! If you have specific Common Core strategies and/or lesson plan ideas that you'd be willing to share at this event in a breakout session, please email me at [shariv@comcast.net](mailto:shariv@comcast.net). Look for more details about this exciting and timely event to kick-off your school year soon!

In March, I had the opportunity to represent Florida at the NAGC Affiliate conference in Washington D.C. **Florida has definitely grown into a leadership role among the National Association for Gifted Children's affiliate organizations, and for that we should all be very proud!** We were highlighted at sessions for our integration of high-tech applications with our Board and membership (a big THANK YOU to Internet and Technology Chair **Christie Ray** for copilotting on a very fun Adobe Connect demo!) and our work with our DOE and FLAG regions on the Common Core State Standards and gifted education. (Continued on back page.)



INGIFTED EDUCATION  
Annual Conference • April 6, 2013

## FLAG Regional News

### FLAG Region IV Report

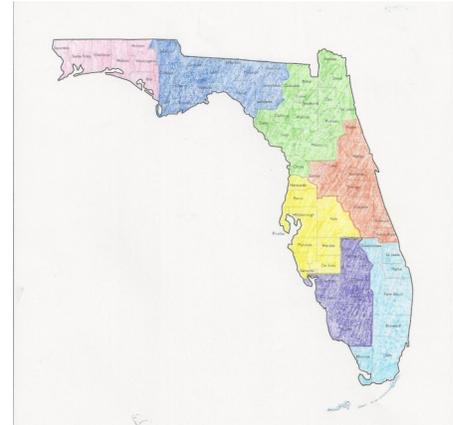
April, 2013

Members of the Regional IV met several times over the past months to plan and implement regional activities, including those in DeLand in October, St. Cloud in January, and in Orlando in February. 60 – 100 people participated in each of the regional events, including parents, teachers and administrators of gifted programs.

The State Future Problem Solving Competition was held in March in the Orlando area. Students in grades four through twelve competed with others around the State to share their best solutions to the scenario about Ocean Soup. A number of individual and team winners will be attending the International Convention and Competition hosted by Indiana University in Bloomington, Indiana June 6-9, 2013.

As you will read elsewhere in the Newsletter, the Supporting Emotional Needs of the Gifted (SENG) “Warm a Gifted Heart” national conference take place in Region IV this summer. FLAG is partnering with SENEG to support this opportunity to learn more about the social and emotional needs of gifted learners at the Orlando World Center Marriott, July 19-21, 2013. Check out the FLAG sessions at the conference!

### FLAG Region Map



Pink = Region 1    Dark Blue = Region 2  
 Green = Region 3    Red = Region 4  
 Yellow = Region 5    Indigo = Region 6  
 Turquoise = Region 7

### Region III News

NAGC presented their free WOW on Jan. 30 entitled Unlocking Emerging Talent: Supporting High Achievement of Low-Income, High Ability Students. The NAGC President -Carol Horn-was a co-presenter along with Paula Olszewski-Kublius of Northwestern University. The focus of the WOW seminar was on how low income and culturally and linguistically diverse gifted students currently fare and are served in our nation's school. Carol Horn presented the models of Fairfax County Public Schools. The main issue identified by the presenters as a problem in identification of these students is that schools try to identify gifted students based on what they know or have learned-not on potential or ability.

The goal of the programs presented was to provide support for low-income/high ability students. The impetus of the programs was research which has found high levels of disparity of student economic levels in the U.S. and that fewer U.S. students are reaching excellence. The presenters reported that achievement and excellence gaps persist and are vast for low-income students. Findings were reported that since 2007 there is an increase of children in poverty. Misconceptions exist about low income learners which has resulted in pedagogy and curriculum that does not support talent and cultural diversity.

Features of exemplary programs for low-income gifted students should include intense intervention, selection criterion matched to stages of developed talent, high powered curriculum, significant expansion of learning time, programs that equalize opportunities, and mentors.

Dr. Carol Horn presented the Young Scholars and Project Excite, which are used in Fairfax County, Virginia. The goal of the programs is to find gifted learners as young as possible. The identified learners are served in the following settings: Full Time Center 25% Part-Time School Based 25% Differentiation in Regular Class 50%

Preparing Individuals to be Lifelong Learners, Self-Sufficient, and Responsible Citizens of Good Character.

Region III met on March 8 in Gainesville at the Tower Road Library. We welcomed our new president -Cheryll Adams.

High-achieving students. Cheryll discussed her upcoming book on math core curriculum standards. Chris Webber also presented information on her book on gifted case studies. Cathy Hooper discussed the NAGC Wow Wednesday on Low-income, She also presented information on the upcoming FLAG conference.

## Parents' Corner

### TWICE EXCEPTIONAL (2E)

Having just given a presentation at the annual FLAG Conference in Tampa about what it is like from a parent's perspective to have a 2E child/student, I can tell you that it's a subject that needs more understanding, more discussion, and more collaboration! Frustrated teachers + frustrated parents + frustrated students = a combination that does not make for a happy and successful school year for anybody.

I have provided a few links below to some very informative websites involving some disabilities that one may find in the classroom. Perhaps they might provide a new or different perspective for you. Let's keep the conversation going!

Happy Spring!

Kathy James, R.Ph., FLAG Parent Liaison

[Kj4kids@gmail.com](mailto:Kj4kids@gmail.com)

### EXCEPTIONALLY INFORMATIVE WEBSITES:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gwZLFTW4OGY>

<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/misunderstoodminds/readingdiffs.html>

<http://www.nclد.org/disability-advocacy>

<http://www.blogger.com/curious-what-its-be-dyslexic-try-exercise>

<http://www.additudemag.com/adhd/article/9774.html>



## FLAG Announcements

### 21st Century FLAG!

FLAG's Internet and Technology Committee Chair **Christie Ray** keeps you abreast of everything "FLAG" using the latest online technologies!

#### Adobe Connect Board Meeting Platform

If you have "gifted" news to share with our organization and members, please contact Christie at [dollfin343@verizon.net](mailto:dollfin343@verizon.net) for details on how to do so!



#### Book Recommendation by Cathy Hooper

Interested in some summer reading?

*Out of My Mind* by Sharon Draper, is the story of an eleven year old girl who is extremely bright but totally paralyzed. Because of her physical disabilities, she is given preschool alphabet lessons repeatedly because her teachers and doctors do not think she is capable of learning. She has a photographic memory -her head is like a video camera that is always recording. But she has never spoken a single word. Being stuck inside of her head is making Melody go "out of her mind"-until she discovers a way to speak for the first time ever. A reading group guide is provided which includes discussion topics, activities, and research.

FLAG continues to serve Florida's gifted students with your support!

Please urge your colleagues  
to join FLAG today!

Membership rates start at just  
\$30 per year.

Visit [www.flagifted.org](http://www.flagifted.org) for details!

## Annual Conference a Homerun

Stephanie Georgiades, M.A.

FLAG President Elect & Conference Chair

Our FLAG Annual Conference, MORE Possibilities in Gifted Education, was another successful event thanks to the collaborative efforts of the FLAG Executive Board and Corbett Preparatory School of IDS. The PEACOCKS were in full show, the weather was magnificent, and the 50 breakout sessions on Saturday offered invaluable information and learning opportunities for everyone. Thank you to all of our amazing presenters, and to Dr. Dorothy Sisk our keynote speaker, for your thoughtful words and endless inspiration.

Thirty lucky teachers, and parents, participated in our first-ever Friday Pre-Conference session with Dr. Joyce Burick Swartzman. All who attended were amazed by the wealth of information that Dr. Swartzman shared, and the generosity that she exhibited by providing breakfast and lunch for the group. Thank you again Dr. Swartzman for providing such a wonderfully delicious day.

We are already working on a date and theme for our 2014 conference – we will be returning to our traditional October Conference in 2014. If you are interested in serving on the Conference Committee, please forward your contact information to [stephanie.georgiades@me.com](mailto:stephanie.georgiades@me.com). I will be setting up a Committee GroupSpaces account which we will use to communicate during our planning. I will add you to the group as I receive your information. I look forward to working with many of you on our 2014 conference.

If you, or someone you know, are/is interested in presenting or exhibiting at our 2014 conference please forward your/the contact information to [stephanie.georgiades@me.com](mailto:stephanie.georgiades@me.com) to be added to the Call For Proposal and Sponsor/Exhibitor email lists.

Finally, if you know of a business who is interested in sponsoring our conference please let me know so that we can work together to build a relationship between FLAG and the business.



# Awards



Nicholas Green Award winner Kiran Masroor

## Scobee Scholarship

Hunter Stafford, a junior at The Villages Charter School in The Villages, is an aspiring engineer. He has participated in regional and state science fair competitions as well as the Envirothon and Siemens Competition. He earned first place in the Orlando Science Center challenge and received special recognition from the Air Force Research Center for his renewable energy projects involving wind turbines. Hunter plans to attend Stanford University, MIT or Embry Riddle Aeronautical University and major in Engineering and Physics.



Scobee Scholarship Award winner Hunter Stafford

## Scobee Scholarship

A junior at F.W. Springstead High School in Spring Hill, Nina Morales embarked on her quest for scientific knowledge when as a tiny second grader she wondered why zested oranges placed on Styrofoam would cause the foam to melt just a few hours later. A member of the National Honor Society, she is involved in various clubs at her school and has studied violin for the past eleven years while performing in various youth orchestras and festivals both in Florida and along the east coast. Nina plans to attend a leading oncology research university and pursue a double major in pre-medicine and violin performance.



Scobee Scholarship Award winner Nina Morales

## Excellence in Creative Teaching Award

As a grades K-5 teacher Zehra Lakhani provides enrichment opportunities for gifted students at three different schools; Pinellas Central Elementary, Skyview Elementary, and Cross Bayou Elementary in Pinellas Park. She supports her students using the EEL method, a term she created which stands for E- Exposure, E- Engagement, and L- Love. Recommendation letters from principals, parents, and students all emphasized that Ms. Lakhani is imaginative, creative, and inspiring. However, the one word that best described her teaching style is enthusiastic. "Her teaching style and enthusiasm aids her students in their quest to reveal and release their exceptional talents", stated Ms. Rentz, School Counselor.



Zehra Lakhani with FLAG Board Member Lynn Albinson

## From the President (continued from front page)

To recap some of the critical areas we reviewed at the conference:

### Federal Legislation

As was the case last year, NAGC is still spearheading the campaign for the TALENT Act, which was reintroduced to Congress this year. The details can be found here: <http://www.nagc.org/legislativeupdate.aspx>. The only Florida legislator who appears to be supporting it at this time is **Richard Nugent**, who is from central Florida: <http://www.nugent.house.gov/>.

### NAGC Administrator Toolkit

This is a brand-new multimedia resource that has been rolled out, with the intention of being the "go-to" place for those who need answers or have questions about gifted programs. Check it out and share it: <http://www.nagc.org/administratortoolbox.aspx>

### Common Core State Standards (CCSS)

\*CCSS still do not go far enough for the gifted. CCSS still must be "translated" for gifted education.

\*Content adaptations that are still needed for gifted learners with the CCSS: acceleration, streamlining, differentiating, remodeling, and integrating across content disciplines

\*There is no research that heterogeneous grouping produces learning gains for the gifted. Grouping gifted students with nongifted students should not be a "differentiation" strategy.

\*NAGC/Dr. **Joyce VanTassel-Baska** are coming out with two new Common Core resources books. Check these out at: <https://www.nagc.org/nagc2/nqcshopper/>

### Low-Income, High-Ability Students

\*A "new" gifted ed. "buzz word" is *emergent learners*. This will be a "hot topic" in the field that is being addressed on national levels.

\*States, districts, and schools need to identify "excellence gaps," rather than achievement gaps, within gifted ed. Who are the groups of students that are significantly underrepresented in gifted populations?

\*Gifted education leaders need to focus on best practices for low-income, promising students: look for "climbers," those who respond quickly to challenging curricula; and we need to assess in a variety of ways at a variety of times ... not just a one-shot "dipstick" test to qualify for gifted ed. services

\*Gifted education needs to better examine students' mastery of criteria, rather than requiring that students have a certain amount of "seat time" in a course or classroom

### Technology

FLAG was highlighted for our use of Adobe Connect. Check out other state affiliates' Face book pages and websites and "like" them to show support!

*Teaching for High Potential* has their entire article library on line: <http://www.nagc.org/thp.aspx>. They are very interested in securing writers ... many of you have a lot to say ... get published with them!

It has been a goal of mine ... with validation from FLAG's Board ... to have FLAG "leave the building" and provide outreach and events for our members and potential members. This year, FLAG has held meetings and regional events in Tallahassee, Gainesville, Orlando, Osprey, Tampa, and Palm Beach Gardens! We are committed to continually-improving what we do -- if we can serve you or your area, please let us know! FLAG recently welcomed two new Board members: **Julie Hess**, a Duke University TIP representative from Sarasota is our new Membership Committee Chair, and **Pam Jones**, a gifted education teacher from Hernando County is our new Legislative Committee Chair. Please peruse FLAG's list of Board members and see how you can be part of our growing leadership team! **FLAG is "on the road" in the upcoming months!** Join us at these scheduled events:

\*Region III information meeting in Gainesville in May. Contact [CADAMS@bsu.edu](mailto:CADAMS@bsu.edu) for more information.

\*FLAG Day at the Supporting the Emotional Needs of the Gifted conference at the Orlando World Marriott on July 19-21st! FLAG members receive a special discount for attending. FLAG Board members **Dianne Azzarelli**, **Bryan Allen**, **Lori Moyer**, **Suzanne Otero** (and me!) will be there to represent FLAG and present during a special FLAG strand on Saturday, July 20th. Join us! Visit SENG's website for the details and to register <http://weblink.donorperfect.com/FLAG2013registration>.

\*FLAG Awards Committee Chair **Lynn Albinson** coordinates all of Stetson University's summer programs for gifted students. Visit for details on these events in Deland, Celebration, and Venice this summer at <http://www.stetson.edu/other/hats/>!

\*Highlands County is hosting **Carol Bailey** (and me!) at the workshop on the Common Core State Standards on Wednesday, August 14th. If you are not a Highlands County educator and are interested in joining us at this all-day event in Sebring, please contact me at [shariv@comcast.net](mailto:shariv@comcast.net).

\*Plans are in the works for a FLAG/Common Core event in Lee County for the start of the 2013-14 school year. Look for more information soon or contact Region VI Coordinator **Tami Traiger** at [ttraiger@yahoo.com](mailto:ttraiger@yahoo.com) for details as they are put in place.

\*NAGC's annual conference will be November 7th-10th in Indianapolis! FLAG Board members, **Dr. Chris Weber**, **Christie Ray**, **Dr. Cheryl Adams**, **Lori Moyer**, (and me!) are set to present at the event! We are looking for others to join us to receive a \$50 registration discount ... please email me at [shariv@comcast.net](mailto:shariv@comcast.net) if you're interested in piggybacking your registration with ours for this special offer -- we need to hear from you by June 30th, with monies due to FLAG by August 31st.

\*And don't forget FLAG's newly-scheduled Gifted Education/Common Core Symposium on Saturday, 9/21 in Sarasota!

It continues to be an honor to serve FLAG as its President. Have a wonderful end to your school year ... **let the summer celebrations begin!**

Shari Valencic, Ed.D.  
President, Florida Association for the Gifted  
[shariv@comcast.net](mailto:shariv@comcast.net)