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## UA64/2 The Challenge: Magazine for The Center for Gifted Studies (No. 28, Winter 2012)

Center for Gifted Studies

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# the challenge

Magazine for The Center for Gifted Studies

The timing was ideal. As The Center celebrates its 30th year, the founding director and current executive director, Dr. Julia Link Roberts, received the prestigious Acorn Award in September. The Kentucky Advocates for Higher Education first gave the Acorn Award to outstanding university professors who demonstrate excellence in service and commitment to students in 1992. Julia received the award at the 23rd Annual Governor's Conference on Postsecondary Education Trusteeship in Lexington, sponsored by the Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education and Kentucky's colleges and universities.

Dr. Sarah Jo Mahurin, who spent 7 summers as a camper and 4 more as a TA and counselor, wrote a letter of "unqualified support" for Julia. She said, "My time with and in and through The Center simultaneously grounded and inspired me: it – by way of Dr. Roberts – made me aware of (and helped me focus) my abilities; more than that, it made me want to think and do and become better." Not only did she describe the personal impact Julia made on her life, but she also elaborated on what she argues is one of Julia's crowning accomplishments: "She had a vision for Kentucky – for its youth as well as the state as a whole – and she pursued that vision until it became a reality. She knew, intuitively, what wonders the (Gatton) Academy could sow and reap, and

## Dr. Julia Roberts Honored as Kentucky's Outstanding University Professor



she devoted herself to bringing those fruits to bear. In so doing, Dr. Roberts has been a true servant of Kentucky." Julia's vision of providing opportunities for gifted and talented young people has certainly made a difference in the life of Sarah Jo and in the lives of the almost 30,000 students who

have participated in summer and Saturday programming.

Nancy Green, Executive Director of the National Association for Gifted Children, said Dr. Roberts has a national reputation as a mentor and instructor to teacher candidates, classroom teachers, and parents. "Through her longstanding and tireless commitment to teaching and education, Dr. Roberts has truly made a difference in both the field of gifted education and in the classroom," she said. "Whether it's through direct influence on children through Western Kentucky University's summer programs or through a more strategic impact via national advocacy efforts, Julia Roberts is that rare leader who understands both how to shape policy on behalf of many and to directly touch lives one at a time."

A very special congratulations goes to this tireless advocate.

***"Being honored as the 2011 outstanding professor at a Kentucky four-year college or university was truly beyond belief. A highlight of the day of recognition was having my two oldest grand-girls Elizabeth (7) and Caroline (5) sitting on either side of me at the luncheon. It was so special to have my family and friends present for the luncheon and the award presentation."*** — JULIA ROBERTS

# LETTER FROM JULIA



Dear Friends of The Center for Gifted Studies,

As The Center comes to the conclusion of the celebration of its 30th year, I am grateful for (actually thrilled with) the interest and support shown by so many former participants in programming offered by The Center as well as by their families and others in our communities – local, state, nation, and beyond.

You can read about the highlights of the 30 years in the WKU Alumni Magazine *The Spirit* ([www.alumni.wku.edu/wkuspirit](http://www.alumni.wku.edu/wkuspirit)).

The Center would not continue to exist without the gifts and support of friends. This year we have had new initiatives that have been made possible by gifts. A gift from the Mahurin family made the move of the international headquarters of the World Council for Gifted and Talented Children to WKU possible. A gift from Victoria, Linda, and John Kelly allowed The Center to begin the Victoria Fellows, an initiative with school administrators to build an advocacy base for appropriate educational opportunities for children who are gifted and talented. A gift made

possible by Flora Templeton Stuart spearheaded programming to educate parents and educators about twice exceptional learners (those who are gifted and also have a disability) as well as to provide scholarships for twice exceptional learners. Of course, many of you have made a gift to The Center that has provided financial assistance for many young people to participate in SCATS, VAMPY, and Super Saturdays.

At the 30th celebration in early July, Wake Norris announced a plan to garner support from alumni of all Center programs to create an endowment that will make possible a position to coordinate alumni activities and support. See his letter on page 6. What a huge difference this endowment will make for The Center!

As The Center enters a new decade, its fourth, please stay tuned as we continue traditions and add to our offerings with the support of you, Friends of The Center. Thank you so much!

Sincerely,

*Julia Link Roberts*  
Julia Link Roberts

## THE MISSION FOR THE CENTER

We are committed to encouraging excellence by providing educational opportunities and resources to three populations: gifted and talented students, educators working with gifted students, and parents of gifted students.

## THE VISION FOR THE CENTER

Becoming an internationally preeminent center is the vision of The Center for Gifted Studies. This vision includes expanding services in five areas: (1) offering educational programs for gifted children and youth, (2) providing professional development opportunities for educators, (3) enhancing communication and advocacy for gifted children, (4) conducting research and developing curriculum to remove the learning ceiling, and (5) building a testing and counseling component for gifted children and their families.

the  
challenge

Editor/Writer  
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You may wonder how The Center came up with the name SCATS for a summer academic camp. The story is that, years ago, a clever girl saw in the first letters of the full title "Summer Camp for Academically Talented Middle School Students" the acronym that now seems obvious. In a talent show act, she used "SCATS" in a humorous rhyme, changing the designation forever.

While SCATS students exhibit both humorous and serious abilities in their talent shows, they come to the two-week camp primarily because they are eager to learn. They develop existing interests, discover new passions, thrive on challenge, and enjoy a wide variety of experiences. They also love being with others with similar interests and abilities. Many of our campers tell us they feel more accepted at SCATS than anywhere else and look forward all year to the next summer. Their comments reinforce the importance of an intellectually appropriate peer group. Academic challenges, enjoyable evening activities, and friendships summarize the experience. However, the young people who come to SCATS would tell you it is much more.

Classes keep everyone busy until 4:15 each weekday. Each student takes four classes out of about 30 options. Many of those choices are quite different from anything offered in school. For instance, the first several classes on the list for SCATS 2011 were Acting, Ancient Egypt, Art-Cultures-Clay, Be a Writer, Career Decisions, Chances Are (Statistics), and Courtroom Drama. Typical com-

# SCATS

## Where Discoveries Happen

counselor lives with and supervises each group of campers. They tell us that meeting new people from other places is important. Hand in hand with new friendships goes self-awareness. Summer campers reflected: "I have made so many new friends, and it makes me sad that I have to leave them," "It is OK to have friends who are completely different from each other," "I'm more patient than I thought I was," "My counselor was fun, listened, and helped me work out some issues," and "My counselor helped me lose my shyness, so I could become more comfortable around other people." These are the words of increasing self-awareness, self-confidence, and maturity.

Campers often come back with friends and younger siblings. The reason seems to be well summarized by the following comment from a first-time camper: "DEFINITELY come. You'll have a ton of fun while being exposed to kids who are on the

same academic level as you, and it's a great learning experience for anyone."

Over 200 students from nine states and two countries participated in SCATS as residential or nonresidential campers last summer. Student eligibility requirements and other information about SCATS are available online at [www.wku.edu/gifted](http://www.wku.edu/gifted). So mark your calendars now for June 10 through 22, 2012. We hope you'll join us.



Cara Pitchford

ments about classes are "A fun-filled learning environment," "I learned how to explore the world," "There are people like me who want to be here and learn just like I do," and "Helped me learn to be a better student – to have fun but also be a serious worker."

Non-class experiences may, in fact, be just as important to individual growth as those in class. There are planned activities every evening, and a

# VAMPY

## A Destination Program for Young People from Shanghai

For the past eight years, the VAMPY experience has been enhanced by participation from young people from Shanghai. Numbers have grown from one student in the beginning to approximately 30 young people who chose to come spend three weeks participating in VAMPY last summer. Johnathan Chen (VAMPY 2010-11) describes his experience in this way: "I go to America once every year for three weeks. There are many things I could do during that time, but I choose to be at a camp that has a loving and caring community. I choose to go to a camp that takes up all my time in the States. I choose my second home, VAMPY."

Two brothers have come to VAMPY for a combined eight years. Nathan Tjahjadi (VAMPY 2008 – 11) and Jasen Tjahjadi (VAMPY 2005 – 08) describe the three weeks at VAMPY in the following ways.

### **What did the experience mean to me?**

**Nathan:** This experience meant a lot to me. It prepared me for classes in school, and it forced me to become independent. I was also able to make new friends, and the overall experience was, without a doubt, worth it.



### **Why would I recommend other young people traveling so far for the VAMPY experience?**

**Nathan:** I recommend VAMPY for many reasons. You can be yourself, and it's a great way to meet new people. Even though sitting in class during summer vacation doesn't sound too appealing, there is definitely enough fun to balance it out. VAMPY is also a great way to build up your independence as well as experience living on a college campus.

**Jasen:** I recommend young people to travel to VAMPY because it allows them to get out of their comfort zone and

experience something different. They are able to live in college dorms and experience a little bit of what college life is like.

### **What did I enjoy about VAMPY?**

**Nathan:** What I enjoyed most about VAMPY was meeting new people, as well as the talent show. There is plenty of time to socialize and interact with other people, and everyone accepts you for who you are. The talent show is a great way to show off your skills, and it is held at the end of camp. I find it amazing how you could know someone for a couple of weeks and not even know they had that talent.

**Jasen:** What I liked most about VAMPY was all the people I was able to meet during the short time in VAMPY. Everyone in VAMPY is amazing, and you just learn so much from everyone you meet.

### **What did the experience mean to me?**

**Jasen:** This experience allowed me to get out of my comfort zone. The classes I took were extremely interesting, and they prepared me for classes I was going to take during the school year. One of the classes I took was Chemistry, and this class got me ahead in my Chemistry class in high school. It helped me receive the Chemistry award at the end of the school year. I'm currently a Biochemistry major at Notre Dame, and I feel VAMPY is where my passion for Chemistry began.

This summer will be the 29th year for VAMPY. Initially there were 60 VAMPY campers, and in 2011 there were 245 young people from 17 states and 3 countries. Dates for the coming summer will be June 24 to July 14. Please share the word about summer programming offered by The Center. Remember that an opportunity is not a real opportunity until you know about it.



# The Center Celebrates 30

A highlight in this year of celebration was the festivities held July 2nd. The day began at the National Corvette Museum where more than 300 alums, current campers, and friends of The Center met for brunch and a tour. Some then ventured to the Aviation Heritage Park (AHP) where Board of Advisors' member and AHP board member Bob Pitchford gave personalized tours. The afternoon was filled with balloon animals courtesy of Broadway the Clown Nick Wilkins; hot air balloon rides thanks to the Hitron family; live music by Jon Crosby's band; barbeque, cotton candy, and sno-cones; an art silent auction; and lots of sharing of memories. More than 500 people traveled across the nation to help us celebrate.



Photos by Cara and Bob Pitchford

Since 1992, The Center has provided Saturday enrichment experiences for thousands of children of high interest and high ability. Since 1990, Joe Wismann and his two sons, Brian and Jeff, have designed, built, tested, and perfected rockets to share with children, beginning with Brian's Cub Scout den when he was in 4th grade and continuing to the Fall Super Saturdays class Rocket Science for 3rd and 4th graders. Joe explained that "this process involved a lot of experimentation. It was a great father-son learning experience. We had a hypothesis or two to test each week and documented the results of each launch for about a year. Eventually, we arrived at the materials and techniques we use today." Brian and Jeff, now adults scattered across the U.S., no longer actively participate in the building of rockets, but Gatton Academy students and alums of The Center Ryan Gott (SCATS 2009) and Will Bickett (SCATS 2007; VAMPY 2008-10) and Gatton Academy alum Andrew Gott (Counselor 2008) were eager substitutes for the Super Saturdays class.

# Fall Super Saturdays SOARS!

Ryan explained, "I want to be an aerospace engineer, so this is the perfect chance for me to get to work with rockets. I loved seeing the kids put all the lessons together. They started guessing what was going to happen when we did certain activities, and it was awesome to see them reason things out like scientists. One of the boys told me he wants to be an engineer, and he wanted to invent a light saber!"

The idea for the class hatched this summer. Advisory Board member and

good friend of The Center, Joe provided the father-son-designed rocket kits to be built and launched by students as part of the 30th anniversary celebration for The Center for Gifted Studies in July. As he explained, "It was a big hit from an entertainment perspective, and Dr. Julia Roberts was very receptive to the idea of teaching some basic physics and aeronautical subject matter in conjunction with such a fun event. So I was thrilled when Dr. Roberts offered the opportunity to use the rockets for a Super Saturdays class."

Joe has found the format of Super Saturdays very beneficial: "The additional time for each Super Saturdays class (2 ½ hours versus only 1 hour for school classes and Cub Scout meetings), supports the class goals wonderfully. It allows the students to study and discuss the physics and aeronautical aspects of rocket science more thoroughly than I





had previously been able to afford them. We are able to discuss, demonstrate, and experiment with Newton's three laws of motion as they relate to rocket propulsion. After a discussion of the aeronautic considerations of fin placement and design, the students design their own fins and install them in the location of their choice on their rockets." And, because the program is four Saturdays long, students are able to build on previous knowledge to create more sophisticated rockets each week.

Since 1990, Joe has shared his love of science with young people. "Since



then," Joe reflected, "we moved away from North Carolina, the boys grew up, and I've made the rocket kits for only a few groups. But I never lost my enthusiasm for sharing the learning, excitement, and fun they bring to students of all ages."

This year more than 700 students from three states participated in 47 Fall Super Saturdays classes. The next opportunity is Winter Super Saturdays to be held January 28, February 4, 11, and 18 in 2012. Classes will run from 12:30 to 3:00. Check our website for an application and list of classes.

# Perhaps a New Tradition: Fall Travel for The Center

Spring travel as well as summer travel have been in the schedule for The Center for Gifted Studies for years. Perhaps a travel opportunity in the fall will begin a new tradition.

Seventeen people flew to Italy on September 30 and returned on October 9. In between those dates, they were in Rome, Assisi, Florence, and Pisa, seeing many sights and enjoying gelato along the way.

Each traveler had his or her own highlights for the experience. John Powell (SCATS 2009 – 11) found Pisa to be memorable: "My favorite site was the leaning tower of Pisa. The tower was built in a 170 year time span. Because it was built on soft soil, it has been a continuous mathematical challenge to keep it from falling down."

Hannah Logsdon (Super Saturdays 2003; Travel to London and France) stated: "I thoroughly enjoyed my trip to Italy as a whole, but the one day that stood out to me as being one I'll never forget was the day we toured the Bargello and the Museum Academia in Florence. Rocky broke it down to where we focused on a select few pieces of sculpture mainly the 'Davids.' He made it extremely interesting and easy to understand." Rocky Ruggerio, an art historian, served as tour guide when in Florence.

Heather Wade (Super Saturdays 2004, 2005, 2007) described the experience in this way: "This whole trip was amazing. Italy

is a beautiful place. Everything about it is fantastic! The food, people, clothes, gelato. This was a trip of a lifetime for me."

Jake Nichols (VAMPY 2010) reflected: "While spending several days in Italy, I had the opportunity for many new experiences. Savoring fresh olive oil and sampling multiple gelato flavors were tasty 'firsts' for me. I stood inside the Colosseum (still broken), stood beside the Tower of Pisa (still leaning), and stood atop the ruins of Pompeii (still partially buried). I witnessed the 'bumper cars' approach to driving and marveled at \$11/gallon gasoline. However, my new friends, both American and Italian, surpassed any experiences, and I am grateful for each of them. Ciao!"

Blaire Welsh (SCATS 2010) said, "There are many things that I found interesting on this trip, including the new and delicious foods I tried, the people I met, the little bit of language that I learned, and the numerous cool places I got to go to. If I had to pick one thing that I enjoyed most, it would be the time I spent making friends in our traveling group. I learned that when you travel with a group like this, you really begin to be good friends with the people traveling along-side you."

The next international travel for The Center will be to England from May 28 to June 6, 2012.





# To the Alumni of The Center for Gifted Studies

## A 5-Year, \$500,000 Challenge

Thirty years ago, Dr. Julia Roberts had a vision to expand the academic understanding of and opportunities for gifted children. Today there are nearly 25,000 of us who are now alumni of her vision. We have launched rockets on Saturdays, traveled to London, lived in Russia, SCAT'd loyally, VAMPY'd unapologetically, started dorm life ahead of schedule, TA'd, counseled, taught. And we have developed relationships that are cornerstones of our lives.

But even after 30 years, a visionary can only start a movement. *After that, alumni must sustain it.*

If The Center is to persist and grow for the next 30, 60, 90 years, it must have a committed and involved alumni base. We must have a method of engaging with The Center and its mission – and with each other.

Currently alumni lack a leader. The Center is stretched serving the day-to-day. It needs a staff Coordinator of Alumni—someone whose focus is to ensure that Dr. Roberts' vision has the alumni support necessary to carry forward to future generations.

Now the ask: I am making a 5-year financial pledge to The Center to help endow a Coordinator of Alumni position, create an alumni scholarship, and support the activities necessary to ensure the future of The Center. There are nine others that have joined me for a starting total of \$40,000.

Would you join us, too? Please make a 5-year pledge – all annual amounts make a difference.

***Here is our target math. By the end of 2012, we hope to have pledges for the following:***

Annual Pledge	Number of Alumni	5-Year Total	
\$2,000	25	\$250,000	◀ <i>Been working for 10+ years? Join us!</i>
\$1,000	25	\$125,000	◀ <i>Onto your second promotion? Join us!</i>
\$500	35	\$87,500	◀ <i>Just started your first job? Join us!</i>
\$100	75	\$37,500	◀ <i>Still in school? Join us!</i>
	160	<b>\$500,000</b>	



Clinton Lewis

For us to lay the foundation for the future of The Center – helping to ensure an involved, engaged alumni base – we need 150 more of you to join us in saying what a positive difference The Center for Gifted Studies has been in our lives and how important it is for future generations to be able to say the same.

“Only 150 alumni? I don’t have to do it then.”

Then we’ll never make it. We truly need you.

*And then we need you to call your alumni friends – challenge them to make the pledge, too.*

To pledge is simple: send an email now to [gifted@wku.edu](mailto:gifted@wku.edu), with this message: “I pledge \$\_\_\_\_\_ annually for 5 years for The CGS Alumni Fund,” and include your contact information. Or go to [www.wku.edu/gifted](http://www.wku.edu/gifted) and fill out The CGS Alumni Fund pledge form.

These programs made a difference in our lives. Let’s make sure future generations can say the same.

Thanks, and here we go!

—Wake Norris  
(VAMPY 1989-92;  
Counselor 1995-98)

PS: Do pledge any amount – if you can do \$50, \$250 or \$10,000, annually, please join us.

PPS: Since we are known as an overachieving lot, any amount over the \$500,000 we raise will go toward scholarships for program participants.



Congressman Brett Guthrie (Second District) was the speaker for the Kentucky Recognition Ceremony of the Duke Talent Identification Program (TIP) on May 28, 2011. “I always appreciate the chance to attend events where Western Kentucky University is once again showing their commitment to educating future generations and attracting the best and brightest to the campus,” Congressman Guthrie said. “The Center for Gifted Studies is an incredible program offering elementary, middle, and high school students great opportunities to meet their full potential.”

The annual recognition ceremony is hosted by The Center for Gifted Studies at Western Kentucky University and co-sponsored by the Kentucky Department of Education. The Kentucky Recognition Ceremony of TIP has been held at WKU since 1983. Seventh graders who score at or above the average for

college-bound seniors on one or more sections of the SAT or ACT were honored at the state recognition ceremony. Duke TIP reported that 1,545 Kentucky students qualified and were invited to the ceremony, coming from across the Commonwealth to WKU for this special occasion. The honorees and their families had the opportunity to come early

# The Center Hosts Duke TIP Awards Ceremony for Young Kentuckians

in the day to learn about SCATS and VAMPY and to tour the WKU campus before the ceremony. After the ceremony, there was a reception that was sponsored by the Kentucky Higher Education Assistance Authority (KHEAA).

The 2012 Kentucky Awards Ceremony for TIP will be Friday, May 24.



# Alumni Update

**NATHAN ARMENTROUT** (Super Saturdays 1997; SCATS 2002-03; VAMPY 2004-05; Center Volunteer) is currently finishing two Bachelor's degrees in Electrical Engineering and Computer Engineering at the University of Louisville. He plans to pursue a Ph.D. in Electrical Engineering involving Machine Learning and Distributed AI systems. While at U of L, he has tutored students in computer programming for three years. He also worked with a Louisville controls engineering company for a year.

**DAVIS BATES** (SCATS 2001-02; VAMPY 2003-04; Travel Italy) graduated with a BA in International Relations from the College of Wooster in 2010. He now lives in Washington, DC, where he serves as the Executive Assistant/Scheduler for Congressman Ben Chandler (KY-6th District).

**JEREMY BURGHER** (VAMPY 1993) lives in Germany with his wife of two years where they enjoy traveling in Europe. He served in the Navy for four years before graduating from Eastern Kentucky University with a degree in Economics. He continued his studies on the graduate level at the University of Washington studying Economics and at the University of Kentucky studying Public Policy.

**GINNY GRANT COOMES** (VAMPY 1998-2001) graduated from Western Kentucky University with a marketing degree in 2007. After a change of direction, she went to Brescia and earned secondary teaching certification in mathematics. She plans to teach high school math.

**IAN DRIVER** (VAMPY 1996-99) graduated from MIT majoring in Chemical Engineering and Biology. He then worked for two years at GE Global Research Center in Niskayuna, NY. He is currently finishing his 4th year of graduate school at Columbia University working toward a Ph.D. in Genetics and Development. He frequently sees fellow VAMPY alums Meg McNeil and Becky Firesheets.

**ERIN ELLIOTT** (SCATS 2002-03; VAMPY 2004-05) recently earned a BS from Western Kentucky University. She is now zookeeper at the Nashville Zoo where she cares for the hoofstock (i.e., zebra, bongo antelope, eland, giraffe, tapir, and domestic horses.)

**ASHLEY FARRIS-TRIMBLE** (VAMPY 1994-96; Counselor) is currently a postdoctoral researcher at the University of Iowa where she studies speech perception with an eye-tracking methodology. She considers herself a psycholinguist since she combines linguistic theory with psychological methodologies. Ashley earned her doctorate in linguistics from Indiana University in 2008. Her BA was awarded from Xavier University

in 2002, where she majored in English with a minor in French. She also studied abroad at the Sorbonne in Paris in the second half of 2001.

**ANGELA FAVALORO** (VAMPY 1994-97) currently manages an Olive Garden restaurant in Georgia. After studying at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga, she married and is now the proud mother of a four-year-old son. Her family is in the process of moving from Athens, GA, back to Chattanooga, TN, to be closer to their families.

*"VAMPY was a very integral part of my youth and helped me form lifelong friendships. One day I hope for my son to attend, so he may have the wonderful experience at WKU as I once did!!"*

**MEREDITH FRENCH** (SCATS 2000; VAMPY 2001) recently earned a BA in English and Creative Writing from Louisiana State University.

**SCOTT GRANT** (VAMPY 1995-97) completed an MBA at Murray State University in 2009. He currently works for the Kentucky Department of Revenue. He and his wife have been married a year.

**CHRIS GRIZZARD** (SCATS 1985; Counselor) is currently CEO and founder of International Marketing Portugal, a sales and fundraising company with locations in Portugal, England, Wales, Scotland, and Northern Ireland. The company advertises for the largest national and multinational companies and organizations in the charity, banking, telecommunication, and energy industries.

**MATT HOUSTON** (VAMPY 1994-96) graduated from the University of Louisville with a BS in Chemical Engineering. He is project manager for DEEM, LLC. He lives in Florence, KY with his wife and baby. He enjoys remodeling his home and umpiring youth baseball.

**SARAH ROGERS IRVIN** (SCATS 1999-2000; VAMPY 2001-02; Counselor) earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in Painting and Drawing at the University of Georgia in 2008. She lives in Richmond, VA, with her husband, Sam, who is in Law School at the University of Richmond. Sarah has an art studio in Richmond and exhibits her artwork nationally. When she is not painting, she works for the Capital One Corporate Art Program, a national collection and rotating exhibit program.

**AMANDA JARRARD** (SCATS 1997; VAMPY 1998-2000; Teaching Assistant) earned a Master's in Public Policy from Georgetown University in May of 2011. Her thesis was entitled "The Relationship Between Teacher Training Programs and Teacher Perception of Student Apathy." After graduating with a BA in English and a BS in Psychology from the University of Georgia, she devoted two years to Teach for America. She is currently working with Washington DC Public

Schools helping students overcome reading deficiencies.

**EMILEIGH BURNS LEDGERWOOD** (SCATS 2001; VAMPY 2003-05) graduated in May, 2011 from Transylvania University with a Bachelor of Arts degree. She majored in Theatre and minored in Music focusing on voice. She married Nick Ledgerwood in June. She is applying to the University of Kentucky for a Master's of Arts in Theatre.

**SHANNON LEWIS** (SCATS 1984-86) lives in Louisville with her nine-year old son, Peyton. Since earning an Associate's Degree from Brescia University in Business, she has been a self-employed bookkeeper/tax preparer. She enjoys reading, exercising, traveling, and being a mom. She plans to seek a law degree in the near future.

**KIMBERLY LORCH** (VAMPY 1994-97) is an active oboist in the Atlanta area, playing in a number of regional orchestras and teaching oboe and Music Appreciation.

She completed a Master's in Music (oboe performance) at Boston University in 2006. Before that, she graduated from Emory University with degrees in music and biology. Kim is currently working on a MPA in Nonprofit Management from the Andrew Young School of Policy Studies at Georgia State University in Atlanta.

**SARAH JO MAHURIN** (SCATS 1990-93; VAMPY 1993-96; Counselor; Teaching Assistant; Center Volunteer) earned an AB in English, magna cum laude, at Harvard University in 2002. She worked as an undergraduate admissions officer at Tufts University before beginning a doctoral program in English at Yale University. She received a Ph.D. from Yale this spring, and began teaching at Wesleyan University in Middletown, CT, in the fall. Sarah is married to Matthew Mutter, a native Tennessean whom she met in graduate school. The two have many bookshelves and one overweight labrador retriever.

**SARAH COURTNEY MAINES** (SCATS 1998-2000; VAMPY 2001-02) earned a BA in Chemistry from Eastern Kentucky University in 2008. During her four years at ECU, she served as captain of the Marching Colonels Color Guard and helped charter the Epsilon Eta Chapter of Phi Sigma Pi National Honor Fraternity. She is in her third year as a medical student at the University of Louisville and plans to pursue a residency in pathology. She married in 2009, and she and her husband live in Shelbyville.

**JAKE MASON** (VAMPY 1994-97) currently attends medical school at Case Western. Transferring from Vanderbilt to the University of Kentucky, Jake earned an undergraduate degree in Economics in 2003. He graduated with a juris doctorate from Washington and Lee in 2007, passing the Kentucky Bar Exam that same year. He earned additional degrees from the University of Kentucky in Biology and Finance. Jake's project "Ridding the World of Hipsters via Utilization

# Thanks, Cara!

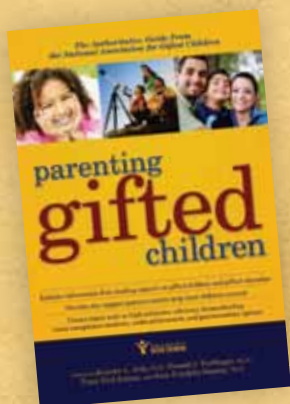
The Center wishes to thank Cara Pitchford for her endless hours and loyal dedication. Cara served as Communications and Technology Coordinator for The Center for almost two years before leaving in late summer to help her daughter Katie Frassinelli

publish *Bowling Green Parent*. A retired media specialist, Cara brought enthusiasm and expertise to her position. Photography, blogs, media blitzes – she certainly furthered the mission and vision of The Center in creative and innovative ways. In addition to her many talents, we will certainly miss her wacky sense of humor and her chocolate cake!

Cara's family has so many ties to The Center. Katie, her oldest, attended SCATS in 1993-94 and traveled to Paris and London with The Center. As an adult, she serves on our Board of Advisors and teaches Super Saturdays. Cara's second daughter, Laura, came to SCATS three years: 1995 to 1997. She, too, traveled with The Center to Paris and Italy. The youngest daughter, Scottie Beth, participated in Super Saturdays (1997-98), SCATS (1998-2000), VAMPY (2001), and Travel (London, Paris, and Italy.) Cara's husband, Bob, has served on the Board of Advisors since its beginning in 2001 and has taught Super Saturdays classes.

"Cara Pitchford has been a promoter of The Center for many years – first when she sent her daughters to SCATS and VAMPY and on Center-sponsored trips. Having Cara as a staff member was valuable for reaching out to our publics in a variety of ways," explained Julia Roberts. "Thank you, Cara."





# Book wins Award

Through her role as Chair of the Advisory Board for the National Association for Gifted Children's *Parenting for High Potential*, Tracy Inman was one of four editors for *Parenting Gifted Children: The Authoritative Guide From the National Association for Gifted Children*. A compilation of outstand-

ing articles from the magazine, the comprehensive guide covers topics such as working with high achievers and young gifted children, acceleration, advocating for talented students, serving as role models and mentors for gifted kids, homeschooling, underachievement, twice-exceptional students, and postsecondary opportunities.

At the 2011 Texas Association for the Gifted and Talented's Professional Development Conference in Austin, the book won the

Legacy Book® Award in the Parent/Family division. All four editors – Dr. Jennifer Jolly, Dr. Don Treffinger, Dr. Joan Smutny, and Tracy – were honored.

The Legacy Book® Awards honor outstanding books published in the United States that have long-term potential for positively influencing the lives of gifted children and/or youth and contribute to the understanding, well-being, education, and success of students with gifts and/or talents. The winning books are selected by a nationwide panel of reviewers for their excellent long-term potential for improving the lives of gifted youth, categorized by audience: Educator, Parent/Family, and Scholar. Tracy and Julia's book *Strategies for Differentiating Instruction: Best Practices for the Classroom (2nd ed.)* received the Legacy Award in the educator division in 2009. Both books are available through Prufrock Press.

of E8 and Punchfists” received funding from the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency. He married Dr. Megan Mason in June, 2006.

**DEEPA MOKSHAGUNDAM** (SCATS 1999-2001; VAMPY 2001-03; Counselor) graduated from MIT where she was a member of the Kappa Alpha Theta sorority, South and Asian American Students, and served as the Vice President of her class her junior and senior years. She was also a member of MIT Premiere Improv Comedy Troupe Roadkill Buffet. She interned in Washington, DC, for the Senate Finance Committee. Just before entering medical school at the University of Louisville, she spent the summer in London volunteering with a charity that provides services for children and the elderly with Winant Clayton Volunteers. She is beginning her third year of medical school.

**ELIZABETH MOOR** (VAMPY 1995-96) graduated from the University of Tennessee in 2002. She attended law school

at Vanderbilt University graduating in 2005. Since then, Elizabeth has been an intellectual property attorney at King & Spalding in Atlanta, GA, specializing in trademark and advertising law. She married in 2005, and her first child, Annabel, was born in January of 2011. She plans on sending her daughter to VAMPY one day.

**KIM MURPHY** (SCATS 1989-90) moved to Rock Island, IL, where she is in a tenure-track position in the Department of Biology at Augustana College. Before that, she was Visiting Assistant Professor at Gustavus Adolphus College in the Department of Biology. She was a Postdoctoral Fellow at Syracuse University in the Department of Biology. She completed a Ph.D. in Genetics and Cell Biology at Washington State University, School of Molecular Biosciences. Her undergraduate years were spent at Winona State University studying Cell and Molecular Biology. Her interests include travel, spending time with family, hiking, and outdoor activities.

**JENNIFER MATTINGLY NASH** (SCATS 1985-86) has taken a break from her teaching career to stay home with her four children: Evan (9), Judson (7), Gavin (5), and Gretchen (2). She credits her SCATS experience with giving her the courage to try other summer experiences such as GSP where she met her husband.

“Very blessed and very thankful for my time at WKU!”

**SCOTT NASS** (VAMPY 1988-1991; Counselor) is in his second year of family medicine residency in California after graduating in 2009 from the UCLA David Geffen School of Medicine. He attended Bradley University, earning a degree in Psychology and English. He also earned a Master of Public Administration focusing on urban management from Indiana University in 2005.

**DANNY NOBLES** (VAMPY 1993; Travel Russia) is an EVA Safety and Mission Assurance Engineer at NASA Johnson Space Center and Science Applications International Corporation chairman. He is an

American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA) Houston Section Member and serves as AIAA's Student Activities Committee Member of Board of Directors, Space Education Competitions (Space Settlement Design). Danny graduated from Texas A & M with a degree in Aerospace Engineering in 2001. He lives in Texas with his wife, Keiko, and one-year-old Sophia.

**JILL OWEN** (SCATS 2002-03; Travel Paris and London; Counselor) graduated from the Honors College at Western Kentucky University this past May. She majored in French and English Literature. Her Honors Undergraduate Thesis explored Second Language Acquisition. She began working on a Master's in French and Francophone Studies at the University of Kentucky in the fall.

**JOHN PASIKOWSKI** (VAMPY 1990-92) is event manager at the Schlechty Center in Louisville. The Schlechty Center is a nonprofit organization committed to partnering with school leaders across the country to transform their schools from places focused on compliance to those focused on engagement. John attended St. Louis University.

**WHITNEY CAMP PICARD** (SCATS 1999, 2000; VAMPY 2001-02) graduated from the U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, CO, in 2008 with a BS in Mathematical Sciences and a minor in Philosophy. She served two years as an active duty Air Force officer, managing basic research and doing operational testing on satellite systems. Whitney currently lives in Washington, DC, and works for the Institute for Defense Analyses as a Research Associate. She completed a MS in Mathematics and Statistics this past summer.

**RANDY PINION** (VAMPY 2000-03; Counselor) graduated from Boston University where he earned a BS in Journalism – Magazine Concentration. During that time, he also worked as a humor columnist for the *Daily Free Press* and spent four summers working for the Center

as a counselor. He currently works for Elavon in the Software Technical Support division as Escalation Supervisor. He is engaged to Arika Dean, who spent two summers working for The Center (Teacher's Assistant; Counselor).

**MA'AYAN PLAUT** (Super Saturdays 1998-2000; SCATS 2000-01; VAMPY 2001-04) graduated in 2010 from Oberlin College with a BA in Cinema Studies. She then spent a year in a fellowship in web communications in Oberlin's Office of Communications, and, as of July 1, 2011, she is serving as the Social Media Coordinator for Oberlin. When she was an undergraduate, she actively photo-documented her life in Oberlin as a student, which culminated in a massive project conceived of by the Office of Communications in collaboration with the Office of Admissions: a poster entitled *A Year in the Life of Oberlin College*. The poster has replaced the traditional viewbook and is sent to thousands of prospective students every year.

**CANDACE READ** (Super Saturdays 1998; SCATS 2001-02; VAMPY 2003-04; Travel London) graduated from Western Kentucky University in 2010 with a degree in Biology. She is currently attending Physician Assistant School at the University of Kentucky where she is an Ambassador for the College of Health Sciences.

**DEBRA GECIL RETTICH** (SCATS 1999; VAMPY 2000-01) recently married. She and her husband own a house and have a great dane named Olivia who is the love of their lives. She has been working for the same lighting company since she graduated from WKU magna cum laude with a BFA in Technical Theatre.

**KATERI ROESSLER-HENDERSON** (VAMPY 1995-97; Travel Russia) graduated from UK College of Medicine in May 2011. While in medical school, she volunteered at a health clinic in Africa. Kateri moved to California this past fall for a residency at UCLA in Emergency Medicine.

**SARINA SAHETYA** (SCATS 1997-98; VAMPY 1998-2001; Counselor) graduated from the University of Louisville's School of Medicine in May, 2011. She continues her studies with a residency in Internal Medicine at Johns Hopkins in Baltimore. Sarina completed her undergraduate studies at Vanderbilt.

**RACHEL VEITSCHEGGER** (VAMPY 2000-01; Counselor) graduated from WKU in 2007. She worked in Development and Alumni Relations for the Owen Graduate School of Management at Vanderbilt University before moving to Seattle, WA, in 2009. Rachel then decided to follow her big brother (and fellow Center alum) Adam to Bend, OR, to work at his dental practice.

**ANGELA WALKER WILKINS** (VAMPY 1985-86; SCATS 1986; Counselor; Teaching Assistant) is currently a Sergeant First Class in the Kentucky Army National Guard 202nd Army Band. She has been married for 15 years and has two children: Neal (13) and Carma (5). Angela earned a BA in Math in 2005.

**MAGGIE WILSON** (VAMPY 2002-05) earned a Bachelor's degree from Vanderbilt University in 2011. She majored in Neuroscience and Medicine, Health, and Society. She is currently working for AmeriCorps at Florida Atlantic University and plans to pursue a career in public health.

**AMBER CASON WINGFIELD** (VAMPY 1995-96) graduated from Transylvania University with a BA in French. She earned a Master's in English from the University of South Alabama. Amber is now an independent contractor offering writing and translation services. Her website is [www.amberwingfield.com](http://www.amberwingfield.com).

**RYAN YOUNG** (VAMPY 2000-02) graduated from MIT in 2008 with a BS in Computer Science and Engineering. He currently works at Etsy ([www.etsy.com](http://www.etsy.com)) and lives in New York City.



This summer a record number of 502 educators from 71 Kentucky school districts, 20 states, and three countries participated in The Center's annual week-long Advanced Placement Summer Institute. The Center's College Board endorsed Advanced Placement Institute offered 26 workshops for beginning teachers and experienced AP teachers. College Board-endorsed workshops provide teachers with valuable course-specific content and pedagogical knowledge, and serve as collegial environments in which teachers can interact with experienced members of the AP community.



# Advanced Placement Summer Institute Marks 28th Year

BY CARA PITCHFORD

The breadth and depth of the offerings are what make the Summer Institute at The Center unique. This year there were 18 different sessions for Advanced Placement teachers who have never taken an AP workshop. Experienced AP teachers had a list of seven seminar titles to choose from. The Center's Summer Institute is one of the largest in the region and one of very few with such an extensive list for both beginning and experienced teachers.

Each year, consultants that are experienced AP teachers who have demonstrated their ability to help other teachers prepare to teach AP classes present the seminars. Many are table readers, table leaders, test writers, and even text authors. Those exemplary educators lead the participants in their quest to improve the quality of the curriculum at their own schools and learn to teach challenging content to motivated students.

AP Summer Institute biology consultant Ann Griffin has taught the last thirty-nine years at The Collegiate School in Richmond, VA. Ann has been a reader and consultant for one-day teacher workshops, student AP Biology Review sessions, and week-long workshops both in the southern region and abroad. She was the first recipient of The Massey Chair for Science Teaching and a recipient of 2002 Siemens AP Teacher Award. Ann is currently working with the National Science Math Initiative through the Virginia Advanced Studies Strategies program. Ann says, "I am grateful for the years I have had the opportunity to work with Kentucky teachers and teachers from so many other places at WKU and The Center for Gifted Studies! What a special group of motivated and enthusiastic educators arrive each summer. Their focus is on challenging the aspiring potential of young people in their classes instead of seeing only the minimum level they can achieve. Every teacher's goal has been academic growth for their students as well as their own professional personal growth! The Center is a real force for unlocking the best in anyone fortunate enough to participate in their programs."

Teachers left this year's Institute with a wealth of resources and new ideas that they could take home with them and immediately implement in their classrooms. One participant said, "I have received incredible amounts of valuable information. I might not have survived teaching AP European History this school year if I had not taken this seminar. But now, I know I will survive and do it successfully. This is my most valuable workshop to date!" At the Advanced Placement Summer Institute, teachers embrace the concept of providing a quality learning environment for their students by first challenging themselves to become better educators.



# Gatton Academy Named Among Top 5 High Schools in U.S. by Newsweek

BY COREY ALDERDICE



The Carol Martin Gatton Academy of Mathematics and Science in Kentucky at WKU has been recognized by *Newsweek* magazine as one of the nation's top five high schools. America's Best High Schools 2011 recognized more than 500 schools from across the United States. The Gatton

Academy has also appeared in *Washington Post* education columnist Jay Matthews' list of "Public Elite" high schools since 2009. This is the first occasion in which the Gatton Academy received a fixed rank.

"The students at the Academy deserve the outstanding recognition that comes from being named fifth in *Newsweek's* list of Best High Schools," executive director of the Gatton Academy Dr. Julia Roberts noted. "In addition to the academic considerations for *Newsweek's* list, Gatton Academy students have opportunities to engage in research, make presentations and publish journal articles, study abroad, and experience leadership in numerous capacities."

The Gatton Academy, which opened in 2007 and is funded by the Kentucky General Assembly, is the Commonwealth's only state-supported residential high school with an emphasis in math and science.

## Kate Hinkle Receives Volunteer Award

Each year Western Kentucky University recognizes its outstanding volunteers – those who unselfishly give of their time and resources. On October 20, Kate Hinkle received the Summit Award for The Center for Gifted Studies. An Advisory Board member since the very beginning, Kate has tirelessly given of herself. For example, Kate spent untold hours perusing the University of Louisville's grant research center discovering possible funding opportunities for The Center. She planned several receptions in Frankfort for The Center, organizing the caterer, the florist, and all the other details that went into making each a success. Kate's active participation in board meetings is so appreciated. Julia Roberts explains, "Kate Hinkle is the type of volunteer that individuals in organizations wish for – creative, dedicated, and willing. Thank you, Kate, for your continuing support!"

Kate juggles many things on top of volunteering for The Center. In addition to managing the family farm in Shelby County, Kate is a Court Appointed Special Advocate in both Shelby and Spencer Counties. She also serves on the Shelby Development Corporation Design Committee. Kate is married to Sam, a lawyer at Stoll, Keenon, and Ogden in Louisville. Sam serves on the school board for the Shelby County Schools. Their family has multiple ties to The Center. Their oldest child, Duncan, came to SCATS in 1996 and 1997. A Yale graduate, he currently lives in Washington, DC, where he works for Astrum Solar. Casey, the next in line, participated in SCATS in 1997 and 1998. This Harvard grad had an Oxford Fellowship in 2007. She is now a law school student at Yale. Younger son John attended SCATS two years, 2000 and 2001. A Yale graduate, John is now attending medical school at the University of Pennsylvania. The youngest, Rebecca, is a 2003 VAMPY alumna. She is a Yale University alumna and is currently in Turkey as a Fulbright Scholar.

The Center wishes to thank Kate and her family for their many contributions to The Center. It is through friends such as Kate, Sam, Duncan, Casey, John, and Rebecca that The Center is able to celebrate 30 years.



# Tom Foster

## Graphic Designer and Friend



Tom Foster, a retired graphics designer for WKU and long-time friend of The Center, designed the logo for the first workshop on gifted education which The Center for Gifted Studies offered in 1982. At that time, his son, Michael, was a young child who colored in the star. Julia Roberts explains, “Tom pictured the development of a gifted child as a star as the graphic for The Center’s first workshop. Thirty years later he made the star the logo for the 30th celebration.” Tom continued as a friend of The Center, designing VAMPY and SCATS brochure covers for decades. We were thrilled when he willingly accepting the challenge to design the logo for the 30th celebration and that he returned to his original star concept. Tom has played a critical role in creating The Center’s image from our beginning into the present. The Center values Tom’s talents and his willingness to share them with us.

Tom, a native of Nashville, TN, earned a Bachelor’s degree from Middle Tennessee State University and an MFA from Southern Illinois University. He devoted his entire career to WKU as an associate professor and graphics designer. The Center, as well as WKU, certainly benefitted from his loyalty and creativity. He and his wife, Connie, have one son, Michael, who is a WKU alumnus and police detective in Tennessee. Tom, now retired, has more time to devote to bicycling, a passion of his. A serious cyclist, he has participated in the Register’s Annual Great Bicycle Ride Across Iowa for the past three years. This serious cyclist who is also a graphic artist actually designed the original logo for Nat’s Outdoor Sports located in Bowling Green.

“Tom Foster’s talent is so willingly shared with The Center,” Julia commented.

“Thank you, Tom, for continuing to share your artistic talent with us.”



# i<sup>4</sup> Initiative Funded by the James Graham Brown Foundation

The James Graham Brown Foundation has awarded \$500,000 to Western Kentucky University for the i<sup>4</sup> Initiative. This amount is to be matched by donations from individuals, businesses, and/or foundations. The Center for Gifted Studies, the Carol Martin Gatton Academy of Mathematics and Science, and the Honors College are working together to offer a series of outreach and programming opportunities that focus on creating a culture of innovation with a focus on STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics).

Innovation is a critical concept. Innovation fuels the economy, improves the quality of life, and keeps our culture changing in ways we cannot even imagine. The National Science Board (2010) called for "A national campaign aimed at increasing the appreciation of academic excellence and transforming stereotypes toward potential STEM innovators" (p. 3). In addition, the Ken-

tucky Council on Postsecondary Education STEM Task Force (2007) made the recommendation to "energize and fund a statewide public awareness campaign to help Kentuckians understand the critical importance of STEM to their own economic competitiveness and to that of the Commonwealth" (p. 22).

The i<sup>4</sup> initiative gets its name from the first letters in innovation, instills, inspires, and increases. The initiative will promote a culture of **innovation** that **instills** a sense of the importance of STEM exploration, **inspires** Kentuckians to foster excellence and growth in STEM, and **increases** the capacity of high-ability students from middle, secondary, and postsecondary populations to engage in STEM fields.

Your help in identifying potential partners for the i<sup>4</sup> Initiative will be welcome. Contact Julia Roberts at The Center for Gifted Studies at 270.745.6323 or [julia.roberts@wku.edu](mailto:julia.roberts@wku.edu).

## First Workshop on Twice Exceptional Learners Offered by The Center

The Center for Gifted Studies' first workshop focusing on twice exceptional learners was held September 13, 2011, at the Knicely Conference Center. Dr. Elizabeth Nielsen and Dr. Dennis Higgins brought practical strategies and theory together for the 50 educators and parents who participated. Elizabeth and Dennis are from Albuquerque, NM.

Twice exceptional children are gifted with a disability, perhaps more than one disability. Parents and educators often concentrate on the disability unless they understand that it is best for the child to focus on the strengths in order to accommodate the disability. Doing so helps the child be characterized by the strength.

The Arts Education Task Force established by Flora Templeton Stuart has made possible the Twice Exceptional Foundation for The Center for Gifted Studies. This foundation will allow The Center to offer workshops on twice exceptional children and financial assistance for children and young people who are twice exceptional to participate in programs offered by The Center. Look on the website for the date for another workshop on twice exceptional learners next fall.



# Executive Director Receives KASA Award

of innovation and cutting edge leadership while bringing higher levels of success and learning to children. The award is named in honor of William T. Nallia, a KASA executive director from 1975-1986. Under Nallia's leadership, the organization experienced tremendous growth and has since remained at the forefront of innovation in public education in Kentucky.

"Dr. Roberts is a servant leader who keeps her eye on the prize. She is an extremely talented individual who has been a force in helping many students in Kentucky succeed," Wayne Young, Executive Director of KASA, said. Representing nearly 3,000 education leaders, KASA has members in every school district in the

Commonwealth. KASA has been connecting education leaders to policymakers, legislators, and other interest groups in addition to providing numerous benefits and services to Kentucky's school administrators for over 40 years.

"Julia's passion for gifted children drives her leadership vision. She communicates this vision gently, but persistently, with all she does and with everyone she meets. The kids come first," explained Lynette Baldwin, Executive Director of the Kentucky Association for Gifted Education.

The kids do indeed come first for Julia and The Center. Congratulations, Julia!

Julia Roberts thought the Board of Advisors' meeting in October would be another fruitful time to share successes and come away with wonderful ideas. What she didn't know was that, during the lunch beforehand, she would be recognized with the Kentucky Association for School Administrators' (KASA) most prestigious award: the William T. Nallia Award. Imagine her surprise to enter the room filled with board members, family, friends, and colleagues! She was presented with the award by KASA's Vice President Paul Mullins, principal at LaRue County High School.

This award recognized Julia's innovative ideas and cutting edge leadership responsible for the creation of the Gatton Academy of Mathematics and Science in Kentucky in 2007. To date, 95 of Kentucky's 120 counties have been represented at Gatton emphasizing the statewide impact of the Academy.

The William T. Nallia Award honors an education leader who reflects the spirit



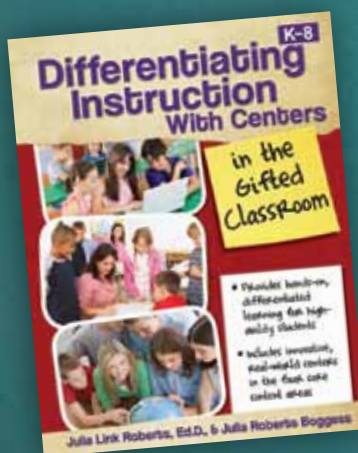
# Differentiation Resource Available Soon

When I was a classroom teacher, I loved planning and organizing centers that would challenge and excite my students at the same time. Many people think of 'centers' as activities where the students are just being kept busy while others work. In today's classrooms, centers actually are such a natural way to provide students with the differentiation that is so needed to help all students reach their potential. It was a delight working on this book with my mother, and I hope all teachers enjoy this book!

— JULIE ROBERTS BOGGESS

Educators working with students in grades K-8 will have an excellent new resource to use this January. Dr. Julia Roberts and her daughter Julia Roberts Boggess have co-authored *Differentiating Instruction With Centers in the Gifted Classroom*, published through Prufrock Press.

Even though the title designates the gifted classroom, children in all classrooms could benefit from the strategies and lessons included in the book. It provides teachers with innovative ideas and guidance for creating unique classroom centers that will challenge all learners and encourage high-level, independent thinking. Implementing centers in the classrooms gives elementary and middle school teachers the opportunity to develop in-depth learning experiences on a variety of topics. The book discusses the use of centers



in each content area, with suggestions from experts in the content areas and easy-to-implement lessons that go beyond the core curriculum.

In addition to foundational chapters outlining the basics of differentiation, individual chapters focus on centers in language arts (written by

Tracy Inman), social studies (by Jana Kirchner), math (by Janet Tassell), science (by Martha Day), and the arts and interdisciplinary study (by Jan Lanham). Each contains examples of centers that encourage differentiation in content, process, and product. From content standards to how-to-steps to rubrics, this resource provides everything needed to set up differentiated centers in classrooms.

This is the second book that Julia has co-authored with her daughter Julie. They wrote *Teacher's Survival Guide: Gifted Education* as well. Julie (SCATS; VAMPY; Counselor; Super Saturdays and SCATS Instructor) is a librarian with a rich background in gifted and elementary education. Their combined experience helped make these resources practical and immediately useful to the classroom teacher.



# FRIENDS

John & Kathy Abbott  
Louisville, KY

Ed & Heidi Amend  
Lexington, KY

Aaron Bell  
Scottsville, KY

Nancy Bell  
Brandenburg, KY

Theresa Bergmann  
Elizabethtown, KY

Bill & Marian Braden  
Frankfort, KY

Dan & Lane Camp  
Jackson, TN  
*In honor of Whitney Camp  
Picard & J.D. Camp*

Dann & Kathi Cann  
Leitchfield, KY

Harold & Virgilia Carrender  
Somerset, KY

David Chandler  
Bowling Green, KY

Ross (VAMPY 1997-99) &  
Christin Hartung (VAMPY  
1997-2000) Clatterbuck  
Norcross, GA

Bryan & Megan Coffman  
Lexington, KY

Raymond & Ann Cravens  
Bowling Green, KY

Dennis & Janet Cruse  
Magnolia, KY

Ruth Denhardt  
St. Petersburg, FL

Kinchel & Mina Doerner  
Bowling Green, KY

Warren & Darlene Eisenstein  
Boca Raton, FL

Diane Esrey  
Louisville, KY

Phillip & Martha Ferguson  
Union, KY

Michael Flueck  
Brownsburg, IN

Tom & Connie Foster  
Bowling Green, KY

David & Marion Fuqua  
Benton, KY

Dan & Lori Fusting  
Versailles, KY

John Gallagher  
Prospect, KY

Randall & Lyn Gardner  
Louisville, KY

Ruthene Glass  
Bowling Green, KY

William & Nancy Gravely  
Glasgow, KY

Charles & Connie Haine  
Claremont, CA

Ed & Bernadette Hamilton  
Louisville, KY

Norman & Carole Harned  
Bowling Green, KY

Robert & Martha Haynes  
Bowling Green, KY

Tyra Hellard  
Lexington, KY

Donald & Phyllis Hillis  
Oak Ridge, TN

Sam & Kate Hinkle  
Shelbyville, KY

Allen Holbrook & Forrest Roberts  
Owensboro, KY

Margaret Holbrook  
Owensboro, KY

Marc & Teresa Inman  
Louisville, KY

Lee & Judy Johnson  
Bowling Green, KY

Tom & Ann Johnston  
Niagara, WI

Kentucky Education  
Savings Plan Trust  
Frankfort, KY

Patti Kuebler  
Bowling Green, KY

Jose & Dianne Labrado  
Dawson Springs, KY

David & Laura Harper Lee  
Bowling Green, KY

Stewart & Amanda Lich  
Bowling Green, KY

Kenny & Winny Lin  
Owensboro, KY

Charles & Mimi Link  
Elkton, MD

Rich & Jennifer Maddux  
Hopkinsville, KY

Pete & Dixie Mahurin  
Bowling Green, KY

Carl & Donna Martray  
Macon, GA

Jerry & Ann Matera  
Horse Cave, KY

Prabodh & Daksha Mehta  
Elizabethtown, KY

Mike & Melissa Montgomery  
Bowling Green, KY

Tom Moody  
Franklin, KY

Anna Norris  
Glasgow, KY

Lyle & Sue Parrigan  
Bowling Green, KY

Richard & Jeanne Marie Patterson  
Bowling Green, KY

Jonathan Plucker  
Bloomington, IN

Steven & Michelle Powell  
Danville, KY

Kevin Reilly &  
Ann Marie Sarnese-Reilly  
Elizabethtown, KY

Pat Richardson  
Louisville, KY

John & Karen Rippy  
Louisville, KY

Diann Roberts  
Glasgow, KY

Dick & Julia Roberts  
Bowling Green, KY

Jamil & Valerie Shalash  
Simpsonville, KY

James & Rebecca Adams  
(SCATS 1986-87) Simpson  
Bowling Green, KY

Joe & Beth Stamps  
Brownsville, KY

Flora Templeton Stuart  
Bowling Green, KY  
*Arts Education Task Force*

Allen & Susan Summers  
Utica, KY

Norris & Mary Thomas  
Bowling Green, KY

Kim Tipton  
Hardinsburg, KY

Bob & Catherine Ward  
Bowling Green, KY

Kendrick & Claudia Wells  
Louisville, KY

William & Lois Weinberg  
Hindman, KY

Bill & Rachel Farmer  
(SCATS 1987-89) Wilson  
Georgetown, KY

Joe & Judy Wismann  
Louisville, KY

## IN KIND GIFTS

Corey Alderdice  
Bowling Green, KY  
*Website*

Tom Foster  
Bowling Green, KY  
*Graphic artwork for  
the celebration*

Charles & Rhonda Townsend  
Russellville, KY  
*Hot Rod Tickets for  
all SCATS campers*

## ORIGINAL ART DONATIONS

Barbara Gardner  
Hopkinsville, KY

Sarah Irvin  
Richmond, VA

# Berta Seminar Focuses on Social-Emotional Needs of Gifted Young People

In 2001, Vince and Kathleen Berta gave a generous gift to The Center for the sole purpose of educating others about the social and emotional needs of gifted children. As parents, they fully realized the many challenges parents face. They also realized the importance of educating professional educators about these issues so that parents and teachers can better partner. Their gift gave birth to the Berta Excellence in Education Series.

This year we were thrilled to have Dr. Tom Hébert as presenter.

Tom recently authored the 2011 Legacy Award winning book *Understanding the Social and Emotional Lives of Gifted Students*. He used case studies of gifted young people as a conduit for discussion and understanding. At the parent session on October 24, he shared ideas and strategies on ways to comprehend and celebrate the social and emotional

lives of their children. On the 25th, Tom helped close to fifty educators understand gifted students. From a discussion about overexciteabilities to the analysis of case studies, Tom provided insight into the personalities and needs of gifted children. He also shared a robust list of biographies, books, and movies that help gifted children understand themselves.

Before becoming Professor of Educational Psychology at the University of Georgia, Tom was a teacher of the gifted on all levels of education. Now his research interests include social and emotional development of gifted students, culturally diverse gifted students, underachievement, and problems faced by gifted young men.

Julia Roberts remarked, "Tom is an outstanding thinker and presenter. It is an honor to have him here for the Berta Series."

The next Berta seminar is scheduled for fall 2012. Look for information on the web.



"When considering what is important in friendship formation for gifted young people, educators, counselors, and parents need to realize that bringing together intelligent children who share the same interests will enable them to develop relationships with others who appreciate their passions."

Tom Hébert,  
*Understanding the Social and  
Emotional Lives of Gifted Students*





# Successful World Conference for Gifted and Talented Children Held in Prague

The Golden City of Prague, Czech Republic, was the site of the 19th Biennial World Conference from August 8-12. More than 450 people from around the globe interested in advancing gifted education participated in the conference. Educators, parents, and students from 57 countries attended the opportunity in Eastern Europe to share the latest scholarship and information on gifted education. More than 330 sessions and talks on innovative educational practices, strategies, and theories were available to choose from, and networking opportunities abounded. The Czech representatives were gracious hosts and encouraged conference goers to tour and enjoy their beautiful historic city when time permitted.

This conference was the first since the World Council for Gifted and Talented Children (WCGTC) relocated to Western Kentucky University, and several people from WKU were on hand to share the latest about the new World Headquarters and plans for the future. "Conference goers were excited to hear about the wonderful new facilities WKU has provided for the WCGTC at Gary A. Ransdell Hall and to meet our new Executive Administrator Tracy Harkins," said Dr. Julia Roberts. "As a member of the Executive Committee, I was proud to hear from WCGTC members how smooth the transition to WKU has gone for them and how much they are looking forward to working with us and

our staff." Julia is currently serving as Treasurer of WCGTC. Before being elected to the Executive Council in 2009, she was an elected U.S. delegate for two terms.

In addition to Tracy Harkins, Kentucky was well represented at the conference. Julia, Associate Director Tracy In-

man, and Executive Director of the Kentucky Association for Gifted Education Lynette Baldwin all made presentations.

WCGTC delegates and members at the conference were also given opportunities to provide feedback on everything from conference proceedings to the WCGTC website. Those ideas will be incorporated in the months ahead. The Executive Committee of the World Council and the local Organizing Committee in Prague pro-

vided a wonderful venue and exceptionally well-run conference. Special thanks to WCGTC President Taisir Subhi Yamin for leading such a successful effort.

The next World Conference will be held in Auckland, New Zealand, August 5-9, 2013. This will be the first time the conference has been held in New Zealand, and local conference organizers in Auckland are already at work promoting their magical City of Sails and encouraging many World Council members and others interested in gifted education to participate. For more information on the 20th Biennial World Conference "The Soul of Giftedness," see the special conference website at [www.worldgifted2013.com](http://www.worldgifted2013.com).



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Clinton Lewis

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Bryan Lemon

# calendar

January 28, February 4, 11, & 18, 2012

**Winter Super Saturdays**

May 25, 2012

**Kentucky Recognition Ceremony for  
Duke Talent Identification Program**

May 28 – June 6, 2012

**Travel to England**

June 10 – 22, 2012

**The Summer Camp for Academically  
Talented Middle School Students (SCATS)**

June 24 – 29, 2012

**The Advanced Placement Summer Institute**

June 24 – July 14, 2012

**The Summer Program for Verbally and  
Mathematically Precocious Youth (VAMPY)**

Dates to Be Announced

**Fall Travel to Ireland and Scotland**