

Institute for the Study of Advanced Development
President's Report 2007
August 15, 2007

This has been a challenging year for us. Due to my health issues, I presented only a few times the entire year. In addition to the loss of presentation income, there was also a decided decrease in testing clients. It became apparent that my speaking engagements also provided a steady flow of assessment cases. Thankfully, I am now fully recovered and able to do more presentations. We are experiencing an increase in clients, and we have been able to meet payroll and pay the outstanding payroll checks. We have also made a sizeable dent in debt reduction, paying off most of the money we owed Allie Golon.

Our financial instability this past year caused the resignation of Allie Golon. Betty Maxwell has agreed to take Allie's place at Director of Visual-Spatial Resource. We are in the process of looking for a part-time webmaster. Allie will remain a member of our Speakers' Bureau and assist us during the transition. She has obtained full-time employment as a teacher at the Rocky Mountain School for the Gifted and Creative. She received a contract from Prufrock Press to publish *The Visual-Spatial Classroom: Differentiation Strategies that Engage Every Learner*. Her book will be released in Spring, 2008.

The events of the past year led me to realize the importance of fund-raising to keep ISAD afloat during difficult periods, and to allow us to move forward. In March, I was invited by Betty Meckstroth and Michele Kane to come to Chicago to brainstorm some new directions for the Institute as a basis for fund raising. (See attached notes.) The main idea that emerged from these sessions was to create a center where we can teach what we have learned about the gifted. Michele recommended that we host intensive immersion experiences for cohorts of practitioners who would come to Denver for three summers of instruction.

Following the meeting in Chicago, I wrote a piece on Eldering, which was posted on the Gifted Development Center website. It was my first attempt at fund raising.

In May, Jennifer Milazzo, a client with considerable fund-raising experience, offered to mount a fund-raising campaign for ISAD. She asked me to send her a list of our accomplishments, our needs and wish list, with prices attached, and our goals (attached). She and her husband are willing to write a letter to our clients based on the information I sent to her, and pay for mailing the appeal to our entire client list of over 5,000 families. I will be going to Breckenridge this week-end to work on the fund-raising campaign with Jennifer.

In June, Nancy Cebula offered to write three grant proposals for ISAD at no charge. She is currently exploring funding sources. She is also willing to conduct a one-day retreat with the ISAD Board whenever we are ready. The purpose of the retreat would be to develop a Strategic Action Plan for the next two-three years.

In March, we were approached by Grace Neufeld, Director of the Baywood Learning Center, a new school for the gifted in Oakland California, with a proposal that periodically we offer a Gifted Development Center testing clinic at her school. She would advertise the clinic on her website, in the Bay Area Parents' Press, and through the Gifted Homeschoolers Forum. We explored various possibilities, and realized that since there is no reciprocity in California for my Colorado license, it would be necessary to hire examiners who are licensed to practice independently in California.

In April, Ilene Feinstein, a licensed educational psychologist in Southern California called and expressed interest in testing children for us in California. She goes to Oakland regularly to visit her grandchildren, so testing in Oakland was appealing to her. She came for a week of training and observation in April, and we tested our first case in Oakland in July. She is available to return to Oakland in August, October and November.

In June, Vicky Stanton, another licensed educational psychologist in Southern California, came for a week of training and observation. In July, Vicky tested her first case for us in Los Angeles. She is available to test children in Oakland in October. We also trained two psychologists from Grand Rapids, Dr. Julie Smithee and Dr. Cindy Rich, who plan to start testing gifted children through the Christian Counseling Center. In July, Dr. Sandra-Leigh Sprecker, a psychologist who specializes in the gifted in New Hampshire, came for a week of training and observation. She hopes to come to Denver once or twice a year to test children at GDC, as she desires more collegial interaction. We were also visited in October by Annelien van Kempen, Mechel Ensing and Gerbert Rebel from The Netherlands, who have adapted our ideas to assist gifted adults in the workforce.

We now have established testing centers in Northern and Southern California. As I am only able to travel to California quarterly, I have trained Anne Beneventi in Northern California, and Linda Leviton in Southern California, to offer counseling and information about local resources, to clients who will be tested in between my visits. In complex cases, Anne and Linda can consult with me, or the parents can set up a phone consultation with me, or they can arrange to see me the next time I am in the area. Linda Leviton has had considerable training with me in Los Angeles and Denver. Anne Beneventi will be coming to Denver in August for additional training. Both share our GDC philosophy.

Two years ago, the Malone Family Foundation in Denver requested a study to determine the effectiveness of the Annemarie Roeper Method of Qualitative Assessment (QA). They sponsored videotapes of Annemarie, and asked her to provide comparisons of her QA method of evaluation with IQ tests. Annemarie was uncomfortable having the validity of her method measured in this manner. In the past year, as she approached 89, Annemarie's health suffered, and she transferred most of her client files to Dr. Jean Cross in Colorado. In July, Annemarie sent me a list of her clients. Since we have tested many of the same children, we are now in a position to offer the Malone Foundation the study they requested.

In addition, we can also conduct a study of the effectiveness of QA as conducted by Annemarie's students. Anne Beneventi was the first to receive a certificate as a Master Practitioner of QA. She offers Qualitative Assessment in the Bay Area and is very eager to have her QA clients tested psychometrically. Linda Leviton's Whole Child

Assessment is based on Annemarie's QA. We are in the midst of creating opportunities for individuals in California to have a combination of qualitative and quantitative assessments. It is quite possible that the Malone Foundation would be interested in sponsoring research on this combination of assessment techniques, as well as offering opportunities for low cost testing to families in need. In this way, we will be able to compare the effectiveness of Annemarie with those whom she has trained.

In July, the 6th annual PG Retreat for families of exceptionally and profoundly gifted was held at the Hyatt Regency Hotel. The PG Retreat is now parent-run. Unfortunately, another PG youth took his life shortly before the Retreat. Betty Maxwell and I attended most of the conference to offer support to the families.

ISAD was well represented again this year at the National Association for Gifted Children (NAGC) in Charlotte, North Carolina, with seven of our staff offering presentations. A Pre-Conference Seminar on Dabrowski's Theory included major presentations by Frank Falk and Nancy Miller, as well as a facilitated discussion by me.

The inaugural meeting of the National Consortium of Schools for the Gifted was held in conjunction with NAGC. I organized this consortium, with assistance from Barb Hutton, Director of the Rocky Mountain School. An updated national list of schools for the gifted is maintained at our office, organized alphabetically and by state. The second meeting will be held in Minneapolis in conjunction with the next NAGC conference.

In November, NAGC's Working Committee on Assessment, co-chaired by Sylvia Rimm and me, became a Task Force. Bobbie Gilman took a leadership role in this group and will be writing the position paper for the NAGC Board. NAGC gave GDC a \$1,000 grant to enter and analyze data on gifted children from five different sites, in order to compare new scoring systems. Frank Falk organized and implemented the study. Sylvia, Bobbie and I wrote a chapter on "Non-traditional Applications of Traditional Testing" for J. VanTassel-Baska (Ed.), *Critical issues in equity and excellence in gifted education series, Volume 2: Alternative assessment of gifted learners*. Waco, TX: Prufrock Press. This book is due to be released at the next NAGC conference in November.

Annette Sheely and I wrote a chapter for another book due to be released at NAGC: "Defining the Few: What Educators and Parents Need to Know about Exceptionally and Profoundly Gifted Children." In K. Kay, D. Robson, & J. F. Brennehan (Eds.), *High IQ kids: A manual for adults who care*. Minneapolis, MN: Free Spirit.

Nancy Miller, Frank Falk, Michael Piechowski and I all contributed chapters to S. Mendaglio (Ed.), *Dabrowski's Theory of Positive Disintegration: A personality theory for the 21st century*. Scottsdale, AZ: Great Potential Press. And I was recently invited to write a 2,000 word entry on "Visual-Spatial Learners" and "Asynchrony" for *The Encyclopedia of Giftedness, Creativity and Talent* published by Sage Publications.

Bobbie Gilman was invited back to Tokyo this year to present and test children. Ben Gilman accompanied her and spoke about how own acceleration.

All in all, despite all of our challenges, this has been a highly productive year.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Linda Silverman". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Linda Kreger Silverman, President