

# *Gifted Development Center* a service of *The Institute for the Study of Advanced Development*

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## **President's Report** **August 20, 2008**

The following is a list of accomplishments of the Institute for 2007. They have been organized according to categories in our mission statement for submission to the Internal Revenue Service.

### Statement 8: Study and Support of Giftedness

1. ISAD produces the only journal on adult giftedness. Betty Maxwell is the Editor and Nancy Miller is the Associate Editor. The eleventh volume of *Advanced Development Journal* was published as an e-journal on the Gifted Development Center/ISAD website.
2. Betty Maxwell took on the responsibility of Director of Visual-Spatial Resource. Our website, [www.VisualSpatial.org](http://www.VisualSpatial.org), provides outreach services and free information to individuals from all walks of life who have right hemispheric talents.
3. Dawn Kinard aided in the development of the Denver Metro Association for Gifted (DMAG).
4. Betty Maxwell and Linda Silverman participated in a retreat for families of profoundly gifted children, held in Denver in July. GDC/ISAD created this retreat, sponsored it for several years, and identified the participating families. This year the PG Retreat has incorporated as a nonprofit agency and is independently carrying forward the concept we initiated.
5. Bobbie Gilman assisted a new school for the gifted in Tokyo, Japan: The Tokyo Gifted Academy. She traveled to Tokyo to test children for entrance into the school.
6. Bobbie Gilman, Linda Silverman and Kathi Kearney are members of the National Association for Gifted Children (NAGC) Task Force on Assessment. Linda Silverman is Co-Chair of the Task Force. Bobbie Gilman has taken a leadership role; she wrote a position statement on the "Use of the WISC-IV for Gifted Identification." After minor modifications, the position statement was approved by the NAGC Board. It will be disseminated in 2008 and sent to the National Association for School Psychologists (NASP). It will help twice exceptional and culturally diverse gifted students gain access to gifted programs, perhaps for the first time.
7. The National Consortium of Schools for the gifted, a national support group for directors of schools for gifted children, begun by GDC/ISAD, held its second annual meeting at the University of St. Thomas in November. ISAD maintains and updates a national listing of schools for gifted children.
8. The Gifted Development Center began conducting assessments of gifted children in Oakland, California. The Baywood Learning Center in Oakland provides the venue and advertising, and Anne Beneventi is the local contact person.
9. Linda Silverman and Anne Beneventi assisted in the development of two new schools for the gifted in the Bay area: Baywood Learning Center and Helios New School.
10. The Gifted Development Center Speakers' Bureau continues to disseminate information concerning issues of giftedness in children and adults.
11. ISAD has two websites with a great deal of free information for the public: [www.gifteddevelopment.com](http://www.gifteddevelopment.com) and [www.VisualSpatial.org](http://www.VisualSpatial.org).
12. Linda Silverman introduced Annemarie Roeper during her Legacy Award from NAGC; she presented on the highly gifted at NAGC; participated in the NAGC Task Force on Assessment; in the Global Awareness Division of NAGC; and in the Columbus Group meeting. The Columbus Group created a definition of giftedness that is rapidly growing in adherents internationally.

13. Linda Silverman won the Special Advocate Award from the Denver Association for Gifted & Talented for her advocacy efforts for twice exceptional children.

Statement 9: Training in Gifted Assessment and Teaching Strategies

14. We trained two externs from the University of Denver Professional School of Psychology: Abra Havens and Matt Herrmann. This allowed us to provide low cost testing for admission to the Hope Academy, a preschool for disadvantaged gifted children.
15. We trained two psychologists from Grand Rapids, Michigan: Dr. Julie Smithee and Dr. Cindy Rich.
16. We trained two educational psychologists from Los Angeles: Ilene Feinstein and Vicky Stanton.
17. We trained a psychologist from New Hampshire: Dr. Sandra-Leigh Sprecker.
18. We trained Master Practitioner of the Annemarie Roeper Method of Qualitative Assessment, Anne Beneventi, from Burlingame, California.
19. We trained an assessment specialist/school coordinator from The Philippines: Luz Estudillo.
20. Allie Golon provided training in teaching strategies to teachers of Navajo children in Page, Arizona.

Statement 10: Research

21. The NAGC Board requested a study to be conducted of the performance of gifted children on the WISC-IV, using different methods of scoring. Frank Falk orchestrated the study, collected data from 334 gifted children at 8 sites, supervised the data entry, and conducted the data analysis. Abra Havens, a graduate extern from the University of Denver Professional School of Psychology, entered the data from the study and assisted in the data analysis. Bobbie Gilman and Linda Silverman assisted in the research design and interpretation of the data.
22. The data collected from the study were sent to Harcourt Assessments and used as the basis for developing extended norms for the *Wechsler Intelligence Scale for Children, Fourth Edition (WISC-IV)* beyond 160 IQ. For the first time in the history of Wechsler scales (the most popular IQ tests), IQ scores now range as high as 210. This information will be posted on the Harcourt website in 2008. It will have a dramatic impact on the recognition of exceptionally and profoundly gifted children and will undoubtedly lead to better services for this population.
23. Frank Falk and Deirdre Lovecky presented the results of a research study at the National Association for Gifted Children conference on, "Comparisons of the WISC-IV and Stanford-Binet-5 in Assessment of Gifted Children with ADHD and Asperger's Syndrome."
24. We have continued to conduct research on the *Visual-Spatial Identifier* with the Navajo population in Page, Arizona, as part of a Javits grant, with the Coeur d'Alene tribe in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, and with various tribes in Ontario, Canada. Several grants have been applied for in Canada for continued research and training.
25. Information on the results of these studies was presented at the National Association for Gifted Children conference in Minneapolis by Steve Haas, Director of the Visual-Spatial Identifier Project.
26. We served as a distribution site for the *Overexcitability Questionnaire (OEQ-II)* used in cross-cultural research with gifted children and adults in seven countries.
27. We have begun collecting data on the *Overexcitability Inventory for Parents (OIP)* with all clients brought to the Gifted Development Center for assessment. The results of this study will be presented at the 2008 NAGC Conference in Tampa.
28. We collected data on the *Short Sensory Profile* for all clients in order to determine the incidence of sensory integration dysfunction in the gifted population.

## Statement 11: Presentations; Publications; Dissemination of Information

29. Bobbie Gilman completed the book, *Challenging Highly Gifted Learners*, a National Association for Gifted Children publication (Prufrock Press), due to be released in 2008.
30. Betty Maxwell began work on a book with Crystal Punch, entitled *Picture This! See Yourself Teaching Visual-Spatial Learners*.
31. Frank Falk, Nancy Miller, Linda Silverman and Advanced Development Advisory Board Member, Michael Piechowski, all had chapters published in *Dabrowski's Theory of Positive Disintegration* (Great Potential Press), released November, 2007.
32. Annette Sheely and Linda Silverman had a chapter published in *High IQ kids: A manual for adults who care* (Free Spirit Press), released November, 2007.
33. Bobbie Gilman and Linda Silverman co-wrote a chapter with Sylvia Rimm on "Non-traditional Applications of Traditional Testing" for *Critical issues in equity and excellence in gifted education series, Volume 2: Alternative assessment of gifted learners* (Prufrock Press), released November, 2007.
34. Linda Silverman, Allie Golon and Michael Piechowski wrote chapters for *Expert Approaches to Support Gifted Learners* (Free Spirit Press), due for release in 2008.
35. Linda Silverman and Allie Golon's chapter on "Clinical Practice with Gifted Families," in *Handbook of Giftedness in Children: Psychoeducational Theory, Research, and Best Practices* (Springer) is due for release in 2008.
36. Linda Silverman's article, "A new era in identification of the gifted" was published in the *Gifted Education Communicator*, 38(1), 26-31.
37. Linda Silverman had an article published in England on "Perfectionism: The Crucible of Giftedness" in *Gifted Education International*, 23, 233-245.
38. Linda Silverman's article, "What is Giftedness?" was published in *Child Connections: Parents/Community/School, Issue 6*, 31, 42-44.
39. Nancy Miller and Linda Silverman wrote chapters for the *International Handbook on Giftedness* (Springer), due for release in 2009.
40. Linda Silverman was invited to contribute two entries for the *Encyclopedia of Giftedness, Creativity and Talent* on "Asynchrony" and "Visual-Spatial Learners," her own construct. This publication is due for release in 2009.
41. Frank Falk and Nancy Miller, Michael Piechowski and Linda Silverman all wrote chapters for *Living with intensity: Understanding sensitivity, excitability and emotional development in gifted children, adolescents and adults* (Great Potential Press), due for release in 2008.
42. Linda Silverman wrote two website posts for the Gifted Development Center website: "I Know My Child is Smart; Why Does She Need Testing?" and "How to Use the New IQ Tests in Selecting Gifted Students."
43. Linda Silverman was interviewed for two articles in a Chinese newspaper, *World Journal*; she was also interviewed for *Education Daily*, an e-newsletter from Washington, DC.
44. Allie Golon did presentations on visual-spatial learners at the Arizona Association for Gifted and Talented Conference, including a presentation with Melissa DeVries on "Making Education Relevant for Gifted Native Americans"; her honorarium and expenses were paid by the Javits Grant won by the Page, Arizona School District for expanding our research on visual-spatial learners in the Navajo population.
45. Allie Golon also did presentations on visual-spatial learners for Most Precious Blood Catholic School in Denver; Forest Hills Public Schools in Grand Rapids, MI; Clear Creek ISD and the Houston Area Co-Op in Friendswood, TX; Air Academy District in Colorado Springs, CO; ArtSource in Estes Park, CO; and the Southwest Georgia Regional Educational Service Agency in Pelham, GA.
46. Bobbie Gilman and Penny Choice, a member of our Visual-Spatial Resource Access Team, presented workshops for the United Independent School District in Laredo, TX.

47. Linda Silverman presented workshops at the Pine View School 2007 Gifted Conference in Sarasota, FL, and The Nueva School's 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Conference in Hillsborough, CA, as well as two parent seminars for the Baywood Learning Center in Oakland, CA.
48. Frank Falk, Nancy Miller, Bobbie Gilman, Kathi Kearney, Steve Haas and Linda Silverman all did presentations on the work of the Institute at the National Association for Gifted Children Conference.

Scholarships and Pro Bono Services

49. \$34,955 in scholarships, and pro bono assessment and consultation services provided clients with limited means.
50. Linda Leviton donated \$750 a month in e-mail and phone consultations for GDC in Los Angeles.

We continue to be on the forefront of assessment practices, research, training, publications and presentations in the field of gifted education.

Respectfully submitted,



Linda Silverman, Ph.D.  
President