



# Gifted Support News *You can use*

March 2013

## President's Message

### Dear TAG Parents, Students and Teachers:

Welcome to 2013! The school year is just half over and no doubt activities fill the days and weekends of you and your students. Even so, *Fulton County Supporters of the Gifted* suggests that you leave a little time for some programs we are hosting to enhance your gifted education needs.

### Spring Lecture: "How Georgia's New Teacher Effectiveness Keys System Can Help Your Gifted Child"

One of those programs will be our spring lecture series featuring Dori Kleber. Dori is the owner and editor of the website *GiftedAtlanta.com*, which provides information on enrichment, in-school gifted services, and additional resources for raising gifted children. She has two gifted children in DeKalb County Schools.



**Dori Kleber**  
Get the Key to the "Keys"

These lectures will be held at Westlake High School in the media center at 6:00 PM on Tuesday, March 19th and at Independence High School in the media center on Thursday, March 21<sup>st</sup>, also at 6:00 PM.

**Get the key to "The Keys"** Dori's presentation will give an overview of the state's new Teacher Effectiveness Keys System and will explain how parents can use this system to advocate for their children's academic growth. Additional details, and registration can be found at [www.fultongifted.org](http://www.fultongifted.org)

### Renewing Your Membership by PayPal is Easy!

Many of our members have taken advantage of using PayPal to join or renew their membership. Our membership has so far remained about the same as previous years, and we believe that the presentations in March, which are open to all members at no cost and to non-members who will be encouraged to join FCSG on the spot or make a donation to assist in our mission to assist TAG teachers with grants and TAG students with academic camp scholarships. You will find the dates for applying for scholarships and grants on our website and additionally in this newsletter.



### FCSG Awarded 16 Teachers Full Registration to 2013 GAGC

**Conference** FCSG will be sending 16 FCSG TAG teachers to the 2013 Georgia Association of Gifted Children Conference in Athens. This is an increase over last year and will benefit students through the professional development that our TAG teachers receive at this conference. With school budgets ever-tightening, teachers are presented with reduced funding for professional development as our tax dollars are allocated for other necessary purposes. FCSG can make up some of the difference as we have done for more than 15 years.

**Congratulations, Teachers: You are going to Athens!**

## Congratulations, Teachers: You are going to Athens!

Christine Anderson—Hembree Springs ES  
Melanie Bennett—Northwood ES  
Jennifer Bowers—Creek View ES  
Maryann D’Amelio—Alpharetta ES  
Tom Dunmire—Northwood ES  
Terri Goldman—Lake Windward ES  
Carol Graham—Johns Creek HS  
Ann Scott Hanks—Ocee ES  
Julia Mullen—Lake Windward ES  
Patti Pair-Martin—Chattahoochee HS  
Suzanne O’Brien—Alpharetta ES  
Cindy Poundstone—Dunwoody Springs ES  
Ayo Richardson—Roswell North ES  
Ashley Rolader—Mimosa ES  
Jessica Sevin—Roswell North ES  
Sherry Wiedman—Central Office

### Keep Your School Informed on the latest Gifted News, Grant and Scholarship Opportunities: Volunteer to be a FCSG Communicator

Another way for FCSG members to assist TAG teachers and students to enhance the educational process is to become more involved in your school: as the PTA stated in a press release on the proposed amendment for charter schools, “study after study has shown that parent involvement leads to student achievement.” Many of you already work with your children’s school as volunteers and keeping yourself informed on how the education system works in Fulton County. Regular visits to the FCS, FCSG and your school’s website can certainly help in this process. Do you want to be the FCSG *Communicator* for your School? Contact Anne Fallon at [vppr@fultongifted.org](mailto:vppr@fultongifted.org).

### Welcome New Treasurer



FCSG would also like to welcome our new treasurer, Alexandra Rosenblum. Alexandra has a Bachelor’s degree in Linguistics from DePaul University in Chicago and a Master of Arts in TESOL from The New School in NY. She has over five years experience teaching English to adult learners. As a parent, a teacher, and a volunteer, Alexandra believes strongly in the community’s responsibility in supporting education. In addition to Treasurer, Alexandra will also chair the Scholarship Committee and serve as FCSG *Communicator* for her children’s school. We are very happy to have her as the newest member of our Board.

### Please Help Us to Help You:

- ◆ Recruit Members
- ◆ Ask Your Company to Match Funds
- ◆ Find Companies that Provide Grant Money for Education or Volunteer Service like *ExxonMobil* (see box)
- ◆ Volunteer to Get the Latest News to Your School
- ◆ Tell Us About Your TAG Teacher, Students, Projects and Innovations
- ◆ Ask a Question That You Want Answered

And finally, let me close this newsletter with a request for your assistance in helping us do more for the TAG teachers and students through increased membership. More members will go a long way to support the TAG program in Fulton County. If you know of a TAG family or teacher that hasn’t yet joined FCSG, remind them of how their membership helps Fulton County Schools meet the responsibility of helping to secure America’s future by enhancing how we educate the academically gifted. Please pass our website on to them.

If you work for a company that matches funds for contributions or provides grant money,

them.

If you work for a company that matches funds for contributions or provides grant money for education, please let us know and we will forward information on FCSG and ask for their corporate help. Your membership and grants from corporations are entirely tax deductible. **FCSG is a 501(c)3 Organization.**

**Need help with grants from your company? Do you want your company to be an official FCSG Business Partner? Contact Peter Vennel [VPgrants@fultongifted.org](mailto:VPgrants@fultongifted.org).**

**Want to volunteer, ask a question or tell us your TAG success story? Email [vppr@fultongifted.org](mailto:vppr@fultongifted.org).**

Thank you and all the best success for your TAG students and their teachers in 2013 and beyond.

**Ed Svitil**

## \*Thank you Exxon Mobil!

FCSG President Ed Svitil obtained a **\$500 Grant** from previous employer ExxonMobil for his service hours to advocate for your gifted student and teachers. Funds will be used towards programs, grants and scholarships. Contact VP Grants Committee Peter Vennel to tap into the resources of your company at [vppr@fultongifted.org](mailto:vppr@fultongifted.org).



## Board of Directors

<i>President</i>	Ed Svitil	<a href="mailto:President@fultongifted.org">President@fultongifted.org</a>
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<i>Newsletter Editor</i>		
<i>Lecture Chair</i>	<b>Open Position</b>	

### Open Positions:

Currently we are looking for a *Lecture Chair* and school-level *Communicators* to be a point of contact at each school.

The Communicators help liaise with their school's TAG teachers, help disseminate information, share success stories and encourage more TAG families to join FCSG. Contact Anne Fallon if you are the PTA TAG Liaison or are interested or know of someone who is interested in taking on the *Communicator* role at your school. Email [VPpr@fultongifted.org](mailto:VPpr@fultongifted.org)

**For more information:  
Visit [www.fultongifted.org](http://www.fultongifted.org)**

**Spring Lecture Series:**

**“How Georgia’s Teacher Effectiveness Keys  
Can Help Your Gifted Child”**

Presented by  
**Dori Kleber**

**Get the Key to “The Keys”**

Dori Kleber, author of **GiftedAtlanta.com** gives you the key to the “Keys.” Ms. Kleber shares the inside scoop to the new Georgia Teacher Effectiveness Keys System. She reveals why you need to know what the keys are and how they can unlock the best path for your gifted child.

**Who:** All FCSG Members: Parents and Teachers and future members

**When:**

**South Fulton: Tuesday, March 19, 2013**

Westlake HS  
2400 Union Road SW  
Atlanta, GA 30331  
6:00-7:00 PM

**North Fulton: Thursday, March 21, 2013**

The Milton Center at Independence HS  
86 School Drive,  
Alpharetta, GA 30009  
6:00-7:00 PM

**Register:** Click on <http://www.fultongifted.org/content/Lecture.php>

It’s quick and easy!

**All are Welcome**

You may attend presentation without registering. All are welcome.

**Awesome Door Prizes**

We like to thank our members who support our programs. Prizes provided by our Business Partners and Supporters

**Thank you for Supporting our Business Partners and Supporters**

*ExxonMobil  
The Fairfield Inn at Marriott  
The School Place of Roswell  
Zpizza*

**Our Mission**

**To advocate for the best possible learning opportunities for our  
TAG students and teachers**

Please help us in this effort by asking just ONE more TAG family to join FCSG, we can double our ability to provide support to our children and teachers. Please help us by asking a fellow TAG parent to join us: \$30 per family and \$20 for educators. The more membership dues we collect, the more mini-grants we can award to teachers to augment their instruction and the more scholarships we can award to TAG students to put towards academic camps. (Currently a maximum of \$300 can be awarded to a student who meets the criteria and is selected.) Your student, your teacher and your classroom all directly benefit from membership in FCSG. Go to [www.fultongifted.org](http://www.fultongifted.org) to join.

For your convenience, we now have PayPal!



## Student Applications for Summer Scholarships

Due: April 1st

Go to [www.fultongifted.org](http://www.fultongifted.org) for application.

### Spotlight from Sandtown Middle School

#### Three TAG Students take First Place in Fair



**Nina Giddens**

*Atlanta Beltline:  
Connecting Atlanta to a Greater Future*

Sandtown MS TAG students Nina Giddens, Brian Hill and Victor Woolfolk earned 1<sup>st</sup> place at Fulton County's Social Studies Fair on February 6<sup>th</sup>, then advanced to the Metro West Regionals on February 23<sup>rd</sup> where they won 1<sup>st</sup> place. Giddens won 1<sup>st</sup> place and also "Best in Fair" and Woolfolk and Hill won 1<sup>st</sup> Place and Best in Region



**Victor Woolfolk and Brian Hill**

*The Correlation  
Between Education and Income*

and have now advanced to the State Fair that will take place on March 23<sup>rd</sup>. Their TAG teacher Ms. Brittney Burns states, "These students have developed a passion and a desire to link pressing issues of society today to the social studies

and a desire to link pressing issues of society today to the social studies classroom.”

*Every issue includes a Spotlight Feature: Spotlight from Camp highlighting a student’s camp scholarship experience or Spotlight in the Classroom a lesson, unit or project from different teachers from around the county. Please submit your story idea to [vppr@fultongifted.org](mailto:vppr@fultongifted.org)*

**“We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, therefore is not an act, but a habit.”**

**—Aristotle**

## FSCG Calendar of Important Dates

### March 2013

- 1 Student Scholarship Applications Deadline for Spring Break Camps**
- 10 GAGC Parenting Workshop Lecture -- Foundry Inn, Athens, GA**
- 11-13 2013 GAGC 33rd Annual Convention—Athens, GA**
- 15 Teacher Workday—students off
- 19 Spring Lecture in South Fulton at Westlake HS at 6:00 PM  
Dori Kleber presents:  
“Georgia’s Teacher Effectiveness Keys: How They Help Your Gifted Child”
- 19 Spring Lecture in North Fulton at Independence HS at 6:00 PM  
Dori Kleber presents:  
“Georgia’s Teacher Effectiveness Keys: How They Help Your Gifted Child”

### April 2013

- 1 Student Scholarship Applications Deadline for Summer Camps**
- 1 Teacher Grant Application Deadline**
- 1-5 Spring Break—schools closed

### May 2013

- 23 Last Day of Semester/School**

### Thank you to our Business Partners:



# FULTON COUNTY SUPPORTERS OF THE GIFTED

For more information:  
Email: [fultongifted.org](mailto:fultongifted.org)

A 501 ( c ) 3 organization