



Serving Florida's gifted students and their families since 1979

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# FLAG Banner

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

WINTER 2013

## From the President

Happy 2013  
FLAG Members!

On behalf of FLAG's Board, I hope the new year finds you well and energized to advocate for Florida's gifted students! FLAG leadership has been busy preparing several initiatives for the first part of the year, and we hope you'll join us for one or more of them:

\*FLAG's annual conference, *MORE Possibilities for Gifted Education*, will be held at the Corbett Campus of the Independent Day School in the Carrollwood section of Tampa on Saturday, April 6th. Discounted registration is open through February -- a bargain at \$65! Included is an opportunity to attend a preconference workshop at the school on Friday, April 5th. FLAG's Conference Chair Stephanie Georgiades has been diligently working on final details, and we are anticipating a formidable sequel to last year's spectacular event! Registration information can be found at <http://www.flagifted.org/conference/>.



INGIFTEDEDUCATION  
Annual Conference • April 5, 2013

\*FLAG is coming to a location close to you! Last fall, FLAG hosted successful regional events in Orlando, Sarasota, and Palm Beach Gardens. Thank you to all who attended! This year, works are already underway for FLAG events in Tallahassee, Orlando, and Palm Beach Gardens. Visit FLAG's website <http://www.flagifted.org> for all the details!

\*FLAG will be represented at the National Association for Gifted Children's Affiliate Conference in Washington, D.C. in March. Our work with regional membership outreach, publications, and technological applications will be showcased to other states.

\*FLAG will be offering members-only access to Common Core lesson plans developed for gifted students by gifted education teachers! We will be soliciting for contributions shortly!

FLAG welcomed several new Board members to its leadership in January. We are grateful for the talents of **Michelle Andrews** (Sarasota County) as FLAG's new Treasurer; **Andrea Goddard** (Leon County) as the new Region 2 Coordinator; **Dr. Cheryll Adams** (Alachua County) as the new

Region 3 Coordinator; **Tami Traiger** (Lee County) as the new Region 6 Coordinator; **Cindy Garber** (Volusia County) as the new Publications Committee Chair; **Cathy Hooper** (Baker County) as the new Special Populations Committee Chair; and **Christie Ray** (Hillsborough County) as our new Internet and Technology Committee Chair! FLAG is always looking for additional volunteers to work alongside these dynamos ... if you are interested in assisting our leadership team, please email me at [shariv@comcast.net](mailto:shariv@comcast.net) with your interests!

As our organization grows, FLAG is always looking for new ideas to ensure we are providing robust services and information to our members. Please share our website, Facebook and Twitter feeds, and email access with your colleagues and friends ... and share with *us* your feedback so we may continue to improve what we can offer *you* to assist your work with the gifted!

*Shari Valencic*

**Shari Valencic**, Ed.D.  
FLAG President

## FLAG Board News

As Publications Committee Chair, it is my goal to provide you with a concise, informative quarterly newsletter. It will include Board news, upcoming events, and important announcements. It may also provide helpful advice and findings from practitioners within our field. If you would like to make a contribution to the newsletter, please contact me at [cegarber@volusia.k12.fl.us](mailto:cegarber@volusia.k12.fl.us).

I look forward to sharing wonderful information about our upcoming annual conference on April 6th in the next issue.

Fondly,  
**Cindy Garber**

### FLAG Region Map



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

Thank you **Kathy James** for helping us better define FLAG for our members!

Greetings eager colleagues of the gifted! I'm so happy to be continuing to serve as the Chairperson for the Supervision and Training Committee, working alongside Tracey Merritt in Osceola County and Gillian Eriksson from the University of Central Florida as my committee members. We are your committee concerned with oversight of FLAG's programs in gifted professional development, including any updates to the Gifted Endorsement modules.

We are excited about our upcoming conference as well as our ongoing commitment as an organization to exploring new ideas and ventures for preparing instructors of the gifted with cutting edge, relevant, technology-rich and scholarship-based professional learning opportunities. As a new year dawns in our organization, one of our main goals as a committee is to solicit creative ideas and propositions from our members on which to base emerging opportunities throughout Florida. We also seek to facilitate an ongoing informational storehouse for current events and opportunities in your various regions and districts, so please feel free to forward such information as soon as it becomes available to me. We have many people around the state contact us often looking for these types of events and activities, and we'd love to be able to forward your information to appropriate audiences.

We are excited about new directions and new beginnings - taking gifted education further into the 21st Century with real and relevant learning opportunities. All suggestions are welcome. Contact me at any time for further questions, with any ideas, or just to say hello! See everyone at the conference in April!

Warm Regards,  
Bryan Allen

## Your FLAG Board at Work!

President-Elect **Stephanie Georgiades** also our conference chair! She has been hard at work with the final details for the April 6th event. Hats off to you, Stephanie!

Secretary **Dr. Chris Weber** was reelected in December for another two-year term and is working on archiving a great deal of FLAG's historic information.

New Treasurer **Michelle Andrews** converted FLAG's finances to QuickBooks. All is operational and super-efficient!

Awards Chair **Lynn Albinson** is prepping all materials for FLAG's annual Scobee Scholarships, Nicholas Green and Creative Teacher awards! She also finalized the recipients of two FLAG mini-grants.

Bylaws Chair **Dianne Azzarelli** is working on FLAG's Scobee Scholarship auction! If you have an item you'd like to contribute, please contact her!

Legislative Chair **Staci Stephens** attended the Coalition for the Education of Exceptional Students platform meeting in Jupiter.

Parent Liaison **Kathy James** is working on a special Valentine's Day mailing to Florida congress-people.

Special Populations Chair **Cathy Hooper** attended a NAGC Webinar on the needs of low socio-economic gifted children.

Region IV Coordinator **Martha Kesler** coordinated an awareness event at Stetson University.

Region VII Coordinator **Suzanne Otero** hosted a FLAG membership event in Palm Beach Gardens.

FLAG bid goodbye to several veteran Board members in 2012. Our best wishes to **Dr. Rosemary Daniels, Jo Glover-Thomas, Dr. Lauri Kirsch,** and **Lois Lee** as they move on to other opportunities. Thank you for your uncountable volunteer hours to support Florida's gifted students and their families!

## FLAG Announcements

### 21st Century FLAG!

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

### Adobe Connect Board Meeting Platform



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

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

Please urge your colleagues to join FLAG today!

Membership rates start at just \$30 per year.

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

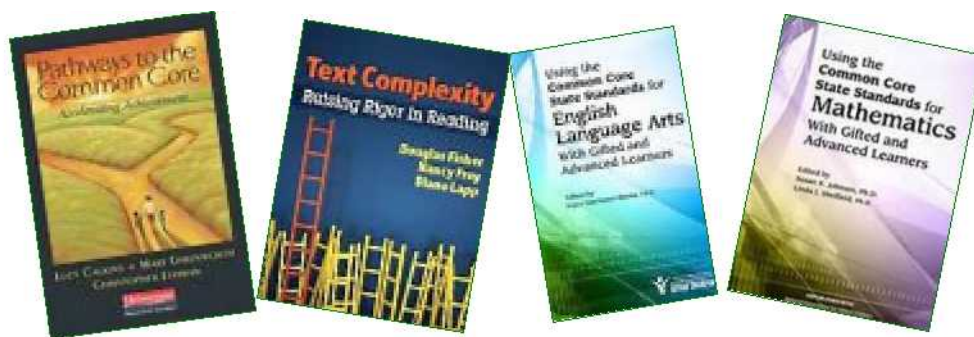
## FLAG Events

FLAG's Region V held a "Common Core Think-Tank" for Gifted Education on Saturday, December 8th at the Pine View School for the Gifted in Osprey. 40 FLAG members and guests from all over Florida, including those from Osceola, Polk, Manatee, Palm Beach, Lee, Collier, and Sarasota counties, met to "unpack" the new Common Core State Standards and discuss their impact on gifted education. FLAG Board members and event facilitators **Lori Moyer** and **Dr. Shari Valencic** coordinated the day to include a whole-group overview and discussions, as well as break-out sessions with elementary, middle, and high school levels.

During the wrap-up discussion, the group agreed on the following:

- \*Many "new" Common Core suggested practices and exemplars have been "gifted" practices and exemplars for years; and
- \*Gifted education teachers need to find avenues to share specific strategies that will best fit the needs of the gifted within their Common Core implementation.

Several resources were shared. Included among them were:



FLAG is in the beginning stages of establishing a members-only resource on its website with Common Core resources created by gifted education teachers, for gifted education students. We hope to unveil it in time for summer!

FLAG's Region IV and VII also hosted events earlier this school year. Be on the lookout for upcoming events in Regions II, III, IV, and VII!

