



ITAG/SAGE



Affiliate of The National Association for Gifted Children

I have never let my schooling interfere with my education. -Mark Twain

The more you lose yourself in something bigger than yourself, the more energy you will have. -Norman Vincent Peale

Procrastination is the art of keeping up with yesterday. -Don Marquis

ITAG/SAGE website
www.itag-sage.org

Inside this issue:

Summary of 2008 activities	2
State Department News	3
Bob Bishop receives Gem Award	4
NAGC talks to Congress	5
New ITAG/SAGE officers	6
CEC Congressional information	7
Mini Grant Awards	8
Conferences	9
Events	10
Winter Edufest	11

Newsletter Editor: Sherrie Bosserman
sbosserman@gmail.com



Gifted Funding goes to the Legislature: Your help is needed! What can you do?

What will be different for the upcoming Legislative session?

In the FY2010 Public Schools Budget request, Superintendent Luna is asking for more money for gifted/talented funding than in previous years. The requested amount will be \$2 million, \$1 million more than is currently funded. The Gifted/Talented Training Grant funding and the Advanced Opportunities funding will remain the same at \$1 million.

The additional \$1 million request includes increasing G/T Training Grant funding an extra \$50,000. This money would allow each district and charter LEA in the state to receive a minimum of \$1,000 rather than the current minimum of \$500. Funding will also be requested for each district and charter to **provide money for at least one person in each district to receive the gifted endorsement.** In addition, **funding will be requested for providing partial funding for gifted programs and services.**

What can you do to help?

You can get in touch with your legislator to let him/her know that you support Superintendent Luna's education budget. If your Legislator serves on the Joint Finance Appropriations committee (JFAC), especially let him/her know

that you support the G/T and Dual Credit request. Please remember, however, that this should be done on your own time and not at school expense.

Why is this important?

To continue to provide advanced academics for your Idaho students, we need to make sure our legislators know that the gifted programs in Idaho are alive and well and critical to improving public education for all students, but funding is needed to provide services for students.

Who is my legislator?

How do I find out who my legislator is, what committees he/she serves on and how to get in touch with him/her? The Idaho Legislature website is www.legislature.idaho.gov.

This website includes not only information on legislators, but also minutes from the Senate and House and the progress of bills.

Contact Val Schorzman, GT Consultant at the state Department, if you would like more information. (208) 332-6920 or vjschorzman@sde.idaho.gov.

Contact your representatives at their home address or send mail to:
(Legislator's Name)
Idaho State Legislature
State Capitol Building
PO Box 83720
Boise, Idaho 83720
E-mail Legislative Information Center
idleginfo@lso.idaho.gov
Note: All mail, e-mails, and faxes, must contain the sender's name, address and/or phone number.



ITAG/SAGE 2007-2008

Summary of Activities Marti Pike



Reflection

This has been a great year for ITAG. We've seen many changes and are excited about the challenges that we are facing. Our organization has enjoyed help from the state officials and participation in conferences. The use of new technology and the addition of new board members should contribute to making this next year a remarkable one.

The Gem Award

Bob Bishop was given the 2008 Gem Award for his contributions to gifted education. He has a mind that is prolific in creating course materials, books, games, and ideas for improving Gifted Education. To call his presentations enthusiastic is an understatement. His love for teaching gifted children is absolutely contagious. Under his direction you catch a vision for your own work. Idaho's gifted children, parents, and educators owe much to Bob's abilities and enduring dedication, but most of all, his heart.

State Help

With the help of Val Schorzman, the Gifted and Talented State Director, we again have ISAT State Percentile rankings to use to assist in identification of gifted students. After much insistence and perseverance, the new state testing company developed percentiles for each subject area and grade level. These figures were being used by many districts in their screening and identification process.

You can find them on the State Department's GT website.

A committee of people involved in gifted education, including ITAG Board members, convened to consider important changes that need to be made to state GT policies and procedures including a

draft of GT teaching Standards for Idaho. When fully implemented, it should unify GT practice throughout the state.

During the 2007-08 year, districts received an increased funding under the Advanced Learning Opportunity Grants from the state. Secondary teachers of AP, Pre-AP, and Dual Credit courses now can receive training with that money.

Mr. Luna has been touring GT classrooms, learning about GT programming and the role the GT Training Grant plays in the process. Val Schorzman asked ITAG and others across the state for input on what we felt was most in need of improvement in gifted education. We responded and so did Luna. His proposed budget for GT funding for the 2008-09 year contains some of the changes noted in our exchange of communication.

Technology

Our List-Serve for e-mailing our entire membership continues to be an incredible help in connecting ITAG members with each other throughout the year. I created a Blog for the ITAG Board to view recent Board Meeting notes, to post comments, and offer suggestions. It has had a rough start but I would like to perfect it in my year as Past President.

Dave Grindle is doing a great job at keeping our Webpage current and Lynda Waite has contributed our recent newsletters.

Edufest

ITAG helped once more to make this year's Edufest a success. And Edufest has, once again, helped ITAG to grow in numbers. ITAG hosts the Parent meeting before the conference and gives out door prizes. We also provide an enormous amount of hospitality duties for presenters and participants during the week.

ITAG also encourages others to become members. People, who re-enlisted or signed up for the first time, had a chance to be part of a drawing for ITAG gift baskets before the final evening keynote address. Another incentive for joining was the possibility of winning a \$200 Mini-Grant for use in their classrooms. Most of the Edufest attendees eat lunch together. This has been one of our most effective settings for letting others know about the advantages of ITAG.

Credit Availability

In our most recent Board Meeting we discussed addressing High School credit available for Jr. High students taking HS courses. Marcia Wall, a Past President of ITAG researched this issue and found that the credit decision was left up to each district. During a meeting of the legislature two years ago, that practice was repealed. With the exception of Science and Math pre-requisites, High School credit is not offered to Jr. High students, even when taking High School courses on-line and through Dual Enrollment. Our hope is to include parents and organizations that offer on-line courses in the ITAG committee that will assist in the process of making needed changes to this situation.

The ITAG Board

In the past, some of our ITAG regions have been left unrepresented. Because of the connections we were able to make at Edufest, four new Representatives were added and one was replaced. Our new Vice President is Bob Bishop and Scarlett Randal was re-elected as Treasurer. We are looking forward to working with and learning from this new pool of talent.

State Department News
***Idaho Receives National
 Attention*** Val Schorzman



Idaho is one of a hand full of states that are working to better serve our twice exceptional students. For the past year, a dedicated group of educators, parents, State Department of Education coordinators and others interested in understanding the needs of twice exceptional students have been working to produce a resource manual.

Idaho has received national attention for this task through the 2e Twice Exceptional Newsletter in the May/June 2008 edition. The story, "State of Idaho Develops 2e Manual, Training," written by J. Mark Bade, highlights the development of the resource manual. The website for the 2e newsletter is www.2eNewsletter.com.

Classroom Supplies Funding

The State Department of Education would like to remind school districts and charter schools that Gifted/Talented Facilitators should be included in the annual classroom supplies funding.

When the Department distributes classroom supplies money to the districts and charters, Gifted/Talented Facilitators are included in the amount distributed. The Public School Finance staff calculates the funding based on the "teacher" FTEs that are reported in IBEDS as of the last Friday in September. This includes IBEDS assignment codes 00001 thru 31999, and 51001 through 73999. Gifted/Talented Facilitators are codes 31510 thru 31540; therefore, they should also receive \$350 a year in classroom supplies funding.

The full listing of IBEDS assignment codes is available online at <http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/ibeds/docs/forms/Assignment%20Code%20Listing%20-%20All%20Grades.pdf>.

Advanced Opportunities Funds



The State Department of Education will be distributing the Advanced Opportunities Funding to districts and charter schools. Information on this funding is available at the state GT website http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/gifted/talented/funding_sources.htm

Purpose: The 60th Legislature in House Bill number 669, Section 6, in accordance with IDAPA 08.02.03, has allocated \$500,000, which will be distributed to train teachers to provide advanced learning opportunities (College Board Advanced Placement, pre-Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, Tech Prep, and concurrent enrollment with colleges or universities) for students.

Distribution to Districts and Charter Schools for Advanced Learning Opportunities: Using the senior count total from the state for the 2007-2008 school year, the money will be divided at an equitable rate among all districts. All districts and all charter schools (which were operating during the 2007-2008 school year) will receive a minimum of \$500.

The intent of Advanced Opportunities is to focus on raising the rigor of courses offered in high school. The senior count is used in the formula, as the definition of a high school is a school with grade 12.

Twice Exceptional Needs Explained at School Boards Association Conference

Board member, Nancy Gregory, teachers, Robin Sly and Sherry Dismuke, at Trailwind Elementary in Boise will present a class at the Idaho School Board's convention held in Boise on November 13 -16.

Their topic is *Addressing the Needs of Twice-exceptional Students* focuses on the new manual soon to be released by the State Department of Education. They are happy to have the opportunity to present this topic to this audience who, as policy makers and district administrators, have responsibility for ensuring opportunities for all students to achieve to their potential.

Idaho Gem Award

Bob Bishop Marti Pike

Bob Bishop is a friend of gifted children!

He has a mind that is prolific in creating course materials, books, games, and ideas for improving gifted education.

Bob is professionally inviting as he asks colleagues to team teach an Edufest strand. In discussions of gifted topics you hear "let's talk," and "have you read...?"



He has his students model the board games they created in his class, showing us not only how to play the games but also what successful teaching and excited learning looks like.

He loves his family, finding a unique balance by inviting his daughters and son to join him in teaching.

To call his presentations enthusiastic is an understatement. His love for teaching gifted children is absolutely contagious. Under his direction you catch a vision of possibilities for your own work.



He continually learns, not only from his ten years as a public educator at all levels, but also from his curiosity. Because of his learning, he has become a magician with math and is able to teach professionals about Brain-Based Learning. His is interested in math, writing, classic literature, logic, music, art appreciation, movie making, chess, creativity, and problem solving. In all of this his eyes are on his students and their future.

Idaho's gifted children, parents and educators owe much to Bob's abilities and enduring dedication but most of all, his heart

Funds for Regional Meetings

To encourage continual learning, networking, collaboration, and sharing of information and/or resources, ITAG has appropriated \$100 annually per state region to help support regional facilitator meetings. These funds can be used by any Idaho region or area could use these funds to help bring in a speaker, mail meeting date notices, pay for materials or printing, or any other costs associated with pulling districts together.

To apply, write a brief description of intended meeting dates, location, and topics of discussion and send the information to:

Linda Hawley, ITAG Treasurer
578 E 4900 S., Idaho Falls, ID 83404.
lindahawley@hotmail.com

Regional Meeting Support Application

Name _____
Title _____
District _____
Address /City/Zip _____
Phone Numbers _____
E-mail Address _____

Don't miss this outstanding gifted and talented education training opportunity



Educators who attended Edufest over the past 12 years have seen all of these speakers

Keynote and Special Event Speakers from Edufest 1997-2008

Join us
July 26-31, 2009
Boise, Idaho

Terry Armstrong * Susan Baum * Kris Berman * Ernesto Bernal * George Betts * Deborah Burns * Carolyn Callahan * Susan Casey * Xavier Castellanos * Art Costa * Bonnie Cramond * Mary Ruth Coleman * Tracy Cross * Mihaly Csikszentmihalyi * Felicia Dixon * Tamara Fisher * Jerry Flack * Francoys Gagné * Temple Grandin * Robert Greenleaf * Anthony Gregorc * E. Jean Gubbins * Kris Haslund * Tom Hébert * Scott Hunsaker * Marcia Imbeau * Karen Isaacson * Nancy Johnson * Sandra Kaplan * Felice Kaufmann * Crystal Kuryendahl * Jann Leppien * Steven Levy * Margo Long * C. June Maker * Rachel McAnallen * D. Betsy McCoach * Hank Nicols * Jonathan Plucker * Jeanne Purcell * Sally Reis * Joseph Renzulli * Susannah Richards * Larry Rogien * Hunter Scott * Sylvia Rimm * Nancy Robinson * Robin Schader * Pat Schuler * Del Siegle * Linda Silverman * Mary Slade * Alane Starko * Robert Sternberg * Roger Taylor * Michael Clay Thompson * Carol Ann Tomlinson * Donald Treffinger * Cloyce Weaver * James Webb * Karen Westberg

Edufest

Continuing Academic Credit Available

Edufest is a week-long summer conference that will change the way you teach. Visit www.idafest.org for 2009 Program Information.

KidBiz 3000

Linda Hawley & Vicki Krogstrand

Idaho Falls School District #91's Gifted and Talented pullout program, PACE, is using an online Reading program called KidBiz 3000 again for the 2008-2009 school year. Last year significant progress was observed in our student's reading level and the students are enjoying the challenging content.



The purpose of this program is to improve the students' reading level. As the child's reading level improves, KidBiz increases the level of difficulty so he/she remains challenged and interested.

The gifted students are individually level tested and each week are required to read one article of their choice, selected from AP news stories. The content of the articles are the same, but each article is customized to match the reading level of the individual student. The story is followed by higher level questions and the students are evaluated on their responses. After the assignment is completed, the students may play games, work puzzles, take surveys, read and create jokes, write, and complete math problems as well.

Perhaps the most exciting part of the program for the students is the ability to email other students in the G/T program. This is an excellent opportunity to learn email etiquette, as there is an exceptional filtering system on the email.



Jane Clarenbach, Director, Public Education, NAGC

CONTINUING COMMUNICATION WITH CONGRESS

In order to increase our support in Washington, we must do more during the year to keep Members of Congress apprised of the need for, and value of gifted education programs and services. Not only do they need to hear your stories, they also need to understand that the availability of services for gifted students varies widely between and within states, which in turn leads to huge gaps in how far our brightest students can go. Leadership from the federal government could make a difference to ensuring that high-ability students from every background receive the services they need to reach their full potential.

NEW LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS TO AMEND NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND

In addition to funding the Javits program, and supporting the formula grants to states proposal, NAGC also worked on three proposals that would be incorporated into the reauthorization of No Child Left Behind. We will bring these concerns with us to the 111th Congress in January 2009.

(1) In conjunction with our efforts on the Higher Education Act (HEA) to increase pre-service teacher training in the needs of gifted students, NAGC is seeking changes in NCLB that will require states to describe how they will use federal professional development funds to improve the skills of teachers already in the classroom in instructing gifted and talented students. The Fordham Institute's 2008 teacher survey provides an update on what is happening (or not) for advanced students in classrooms across the U.S.

(2) NAGC is seeking changes in NCLB's assessment and accountability system to ensure that schools are held accountable for improving the achievement of all students, including those performing at the "advanced" level.

(3) NAGC is also working to change NCLB to address the achievement gap between advanced students who are disadvantaged and those who are not. Several studies in 2008 focused on the gap between low-income, advanced students and their more advantaged peers, which has been growing faster than the performance gap at the lower end of the achievement level. The two studies in 2008 to review on this topic are the Fordham Institute study of top performing students and the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation's Achievement Trap.

CONTINUING COMMUNICATION WITH CONGRESS

In order to increase our support in Washington, we must do more during the year to keep Members of Congress apprised of the need for, and value of gifted education programs and services. Not only do they need to hear your stories, they also need to understand that the availability of services for gifted students varies widely between and within states, which in turn leads to huge gaps in how far our brightest students can go.

Leadership from the federal government could make a difference to ensuring that high-ability students from every background receive the services they need to reach their full potential.

Check out some of the materials in the advocacy toolkit to help you develop letters-to-the-editor of your local paper. Members of Congress all pay close attention to the issues that appear locally, so this is a great place to begin.

PLEASE VISIT THIS SPACE REGULARLY. www.nagc.org
(Advocacy and Legislation)

We're ready to roll up our sleeves to work on a range of issues. Please join us!

Newly Elected ITAG Officers: Vice President Bishop & Treasurer Randall



Scarlett Randall, Treasurer, was re-elected to serve another term as Treasurer of ITAG-SAGE.

Scarlett, a fulltime gifted classroom teacher at Whitney Elementary in Boise, has been teaching for 20 years in grades 1,2,4,5,6,7& 8, including 4 years in a 4,5,6 full-time gifted classroom. She has

taught in the Boise, Payette, and Minidoka School Districts.

Scarlett received the 1995-1997 USWEST Laptop Teacher Network Project award. She was director of Boise's Mathematically Mad Meet, liaison for Micron Technology, and Science Fair Coordinator. She helped write Boise's Science Curriculum, and was director and coordinator for Whitney's outdoor school experience.

Scarlett prides herself for always looking for ways to stretch dollars, wheel and deal bargains, and make money work for organizations in which she has been involved.

Bob Bishop, Vice President, a Boise School District Gifted Service Facilitator at Cynthia Mann, Pierce Park, and Shadow Hills schools, has been teaching Gifted students for 12 years and is known as a creative teacher, author, curriculum developer and professional magician. His research abilities, creative style, high energy deliveries, practical applications and humor make him a sought-after presenter.



Bob has been well received as a popular presenter for seminars, conventions, camps, and retreats. Those who participate in his workshops are invited to go beyond the ordinary boundaries of thought. He stimulates curiosity, creativity and a confidence in those that he works with, whether they be children or engineers for major corporations.

Nicholas Green Award Letter from the NAGC president



Dear Member,

As you consider year-end charitable contributions, I hope you will join me and donate to the Nicholas Green award program. The Nicholas Green award program is designed to recognize distinguished achievement in academics, leadership, or the arts, in children grades 3 through 6.

NAGC believes that the Nicholas Green Distinguished Student Awards inspire children to achieve to their fullest potential, highlight high-ability students, and draw attention to the educational needs of our nation's gifted and talented students.

One child per state can be named a Nicholas Green Distinguished Student and that winner receives a \$500 U.S. savings bond and an NAGC Certificate of Excellence. Eligible students may be nominated by parents, teachers, students or community/civic groups.

I travel the country extensively and the highlight of my visit to any of our affiliates is the presentation of this award. It is most inspiring to meet these young award winners and to learn of their love of learning and compassion for others. The legacy of Nicholas Green began with a generous donation by his parents, Reg and Maggie Green, after their son Nicholas' untimely and tragic death.

Unfortunately, the funds that the Green family contributed are depleted. Thus, we have embarked upon a campaign to continue the legacy of Nicholas Green. Our state affiliates have helped tremendously. All donations are credited toward the state from which they come. I hope you will join me in extending the legacy of this important program.

*Sincerely,
Del Siegle
NAGC President*

PS Remember that tax deductions to 501 (c) (3) nonprofits such as NAGC are allowable to the extent the law allows.

To find out more, go to www.nagc.org

To donate to the Idaho Nicholas Green Award, send donations to ITAG Secretary, Linda Hawley, 578 E 4900 S., Idaho Falls, ID 83404.

PAGE

PAGE (Parent Advocates for Gifted Education) meeting will be held on November 18th, 7 PM at Grace Jordan Elementary School off Overland Road by the pedestrian bridge just east of Cole Rd. A panel of parents have been invited to talk about different alternatives and interventions they have used to meet the gifted needs of their children.

December's meeting will be Dec 16th, 7pm, at Grace Jordan Elementary School. We are interested in input for topics to help guide us for future meetings, such as identification, visual spatial learning strategies, college preparation process, guiding the pre-school child, etc. Send suggestions to negregory@gmail.com or call Nancy 323-8354 or Barb 344-0916.

2008 ITAG/SAGE Mini Grants

Mini-grants at \$200 each, are available for innovative ideas that promote gifted education in schools and benefit gifted children.

The grants are to help fund projects that provide direct support for programs and/or materials for gifted children. Ideas that in-directly benefit gifted children will also be considered. Applicants must be ITAG/SAGE members.

Anne Dutton from Emmett and Vicki Krogstrand from Idaho Falls were awarded a grant at the October meeting.

Anne's mini grant was for classroom teachers and the Gifted and Talented coordinator in the Emmett School District to have bi-weekly outings where fifty advanced students will interact with nature. Students will use jeweler's loupes to see nature in a new

ITAG/SAGE Membership

ITAG/SAGE, Idaho the Association for Gifted Education, is an organization whose mission is to improve the availability and quality of information, programs and training for gifted and talented education in Idaho. Members are people who, like you, believe in gifted education. ITAG/SAGE is an active organization supporting many worthwhile initiatives. ITAG/SAGE is an affiliate of The National Assoc of Gifted Children Affiliate of Council for Exceptional Children

For membership, fill out the form below and send it, along with your membership dues to Linda Hawley, secretary. If you have questions or need additional information, please feel free to contact an officer or regional representative.

Name _____
Home Address _____
City/State/Zip _____
School Address _____
City/State/Zip _____
Home Phone _____ Work Phone _____
E-mail _____
CEC member # (if it applies) _____

(If you are a CEC-TAG member, you are a member of ITAG.)

Are you: Parent - GT Facilitator - Classroom Teacher -
Administrator - Counselor - Ancillary Staff - Other

Send \$25.00 check to ITAG/SAGE: Linda Hawley
578 E 4900 S., Idaho Falls, ID 83404
lindahawley@hotmail.com

_____ I want to contribute \$1 to the Nicholas Green Distinguished Student Fund (\$26 total).

perspective. Analogies based on the on the object's form and function, other writings, and drawings will be recorded in the journal. These recordings will reflect the student's growth and learning across the curriculum as well as serve as clues for future theorizing.

Vicki plans to use her grant to purchase three hydrogen-powered cars for Idaho Falls District #91's science topic of "Energy Sources" in PACE (their gifted pullout program). Hydrogen is one of the seven components (solar, biomass, hydro, hydrogen, geothermal, wind, and nuclear) that is being studied this year. The students will be building hydrogen-powered (fuel cell) vehicles with the materials purchased by the mini grant.

To find out more about the mini grants and to download an application, visit www.itag-sage.org.

ITAG/SAGE Officers



President Marti Pike, Twin Falls
pikema@tfsd.k12.id.us
H 404-1660

Past President Linda Stokes, Boise
dale_stokes@yahoo.com
H 362-9049

Vice President Susan Wolfe, Boise
Susan.wolfe@boiseschools.org
H 429-9641

President Elect Angela Young, Middleton
ayoung@msd134.org
H 631-6104

Secretary Linda Hawley, Idaho Falls
lindahawley@hotmail.com
H 524-7099

Treasurer Scarlett Randall, Boise
Scarlett.randall@boiseschools.org
H 895-9548

Parent Rep Nancy Gregory, Boise
negregory@gmail.com,
H 323-8354

Regional Representatives
Region One Beth Brubaker, Hayden
bethbr@jrca.com
H 772-4312

Region Two Vacant

Region Three
Lynda Waite, Nampa
lwaite@nsd131.org, H 463-8003

Karen Smith, Boise
cyberkarensmith@yahoo.com
H 724-1151

Region Four Vacant

Region Five Cathy Kratz, Pocatello
kratzca@ds25.k12.id.us
H 233-5352

Region Six
Vicki Krogstrand, Idaho Falls
krogvick@d91.k12.id.us
H 346-6729

Vicki Chase, Blackfoot
jv6467@cableone.net, H 589-6288

Webmaster Dave Grindle, Meridian
webmaster@itag-sage.org
H 895-6612

Edufest Coordinator /Newsletter Editor
Sherrie Bosserman, Kuna/Boise
sbosserman@gmail.com
H 344-1761

CEC's Fall Sun Valley Conference

ITAG division presenters Diane Garmire and Bob Bishop were a first place winner at the Council for Exceptional Children conference on October 4-6, 2008.



"This year's conference was fabulous!" a participant replied. "Everything from Troy McClain's keynote to the networking socials to the banquet's Award's presenta-

tions to the raffle prizes and to the great breakout sessions. All who attended definitely had a first rate, magical, dazzling time!"

Thursday and Friday sessions by Bob Bishop were no hocus pocus! They included: Motivating the Heart to Yearn and the Mind to Learn: Inspiring Citius, Altius, Fortius for the tired, low achieving and weak hearted, and Understanding is there for the Asking: Developing Olympic Minds with Questioning skills.

Diane Garmire was in fabulous form with Golden Ratio! First Place Understanding and Use of How it Works!, Silver Medals?...Schmedals!, and Make Mine a Mandala!, and Beefing up the Bronze; Art Should Never Take Third Place!

The Post Conference, held on Saturday morning, was all



about Going for the G. O. L. D.: Giving Opportunities for Learning and Discovery was a joint presentation by Bob Bishop and Diane Garmire. They introduced

proven ways to release the creativity that is in all of us.

All in all, it was a first place, fun, educational event!



Tampa, Florida was okay, but the NAGC conference, held October 29-November 2, was truly fabulous!

As always, it was hard to choose what sessions to go to, there were so many that I wanted to attend, over 300 different ones. Everything from the usual differentiation sessions to information on the latest research data was available.

The Board Institutes were good too and mini keynote speakers were as inspiring as the big guy keynotes, Daniel Pink and Rafe Esquith. Even the Exhibit Hall, chalked full of materials and job opportunities, was an awing experience\$. There you could find copies of the NAGC Nicholas Green fund raising calendar for sale, with a picture of Warm Lake, Idaho in it, a picture I took a couple of years ago while on vacation.



It was fun and exhilarating to be greeted by and network with other people, some from Idaho, and with many different presenters.

But for me, the highlight of the whole conference was to see the NAGC president, our very own *Del Siegle*, do the Welcoming Assembly with his young daughter in arms. That really hit a high note!

Little *Jessica Siegle*, just turning one year old, is definitely the "apple of her daddy's eye" and everyone else's too! She has just started walking and gave us all a grand show.

For those who know Del, you knew how much he wanted a kid, and you probably know how proud and enthralled he is being a dad. He and his wife, Betsy, are really enjoying their new little "bundle of joy".



Sherrie Bosserman

