Every year parents and schools spend millions of dollars to college admissions coaches and test prep companies like the Ivy Consulting Group, Kaplan and the Princeton Review. I am not saying that those companies do not provide a valued service. After all, what could be a greater investment than your child’s college education? However, when you get down to college preparation and the admissions process, it is not a big mystery.

While working for GEAR UP/UMASS in Boston, Massachusetts, I have learned much about the college admissions process. I ran the College and Career Mentoring program in which I organized college visits, recruited college admissions representatives to speak at schools, planned school-wide assemblies that focused on college and career, and developed mentoring programs with teachers at the school. In addition, I am proud to say that not only did all but four of my former students attend college; they have since graduated and are doing great things with their lives. This piece is my guideline to parents on how to prepare their children for college.

NINTH-GRADE COLLEGE PREPARATION TIPS

In the ninth grade, start going to local colleges to show your child what a college campus looks like. Seek out an array of learning experiences. Whether it is sports, a school-sponsored club or program, summer camp or an enrichment class, young people need to be in situations in which they can recognize their gifts, talents and interests, as well as what subjects, issues or careers they are drawn toward. Eventually, this may help them decide what they want to major in when they are working towards their bachelor’s degrees.

Also, this is the time to sit down with your child to create an academic plan based upon their passions and interests, not specific careers paths. However, the most important thing to remember about the ninth grade is your child’s grades because they begin to count towards their grade point average (GPA), and it is much easier to start out with a 3.5 GPA than trying to get one later.
DEAR FRIENDS:

Our summer programs were very successful. Sixty-three students attended the Leadership Studies Program, 122 attended the Summer Gifted Studies Program and 55 attended the Summer Program for Academically Talented Youth. Across the three programs, there were eight states represented. We are in the pre-planning steps for the summer of 2014.

On November 2, 2014, the Career Exploration for Girls Conference will be held. It is cosponsored by Forrest General Hospital Spirit of Women. The keynote speaker will be Dr. Ann Blackwell, dean of the College of Education and Psychology.

If you haven’t read it yet, the College Preparation Tips article was written by Will Deyamport III, a person we consider an expert on the topic. You will enjoy reading this wonderful informational piece.

Lastly, we are still seeking support of the Frances A. Karnes Endowed Chair, which is growing slowly.

Sincerely,

Frances A. Karnes, Ph.D.
DISTINGUISHED PROFESSOR, Curriculum, Instruction and Special Education and DIRECTOR, The Frances A. Karnes Center for Gifted Studies

Thank You! Thank You!  We wish to thank our donors who have continued to support the Frances A. Karnes Endowed Scholarship, the Christopher J. Karnes Gifted Education Memorial Fund, the Summer Program for Academically Talented Youth, and Friends for Gifted Education. The Friends fund was established in 1999 for scholarships for needy and eligible students to attend our summer programs and the Saturday Gifted Studies Program.

PROGRAM SPONSORS

Sponsorships for our programs also provide necessary funding for program support and student scholarships:

SATURDAY GIFTED STUDIES PROGRAM

LEADERSHIP STUDIES PROGRAM

SUMMER GIFTED STUDIES PROGRAM

SUMMER PROGRAM FOR ACADEMICALLY TALENTED YOUTH

MISSION STATEMENT

Beginning in 1974, programs and other endeavors in gifted education were initiated at The University of Southern Mississippi. The Center for Gifted Studies was established in 1979 and dedicated as The Frances A. Karnes Center for Gifted Studies in 1999, its central purpose to further the education of gifted students and those with leadership abilities through teaching, research and service. Emphasis is also placed on these areas for those interested in the gifted: teachers, parents, administrators, psychologists, counselors and other concerned citizens.

SERVICES

Many services are offered through the Center. Instructional programs are provided for intellectually gifted students in grades pre-kindergarten through 12. The Saturday Gifted Studies Program provides instruction for students in pre-kindergarten through 12th grade for seven consecutive Saturdays during the months of January and February. The Summer Gifted Studies Program, a one-week residential program, serves youth in grades four through eight, while the Summer Program for Academically Talented Youth, a three-week residential program, serves students in grades seven through ten. The Leadership Studies Program is a one-week summer residential program designed to develop leadership concepts and skills and is offered for students enrolled in grades six through eleven. Leadership competitions are held for students in grades seven through twelve each year and are designed to develop leadership skills and style and to build self-confidence. Teacher training and staff development are provided for regular education personnel and for teachers who specialize in gifted education. A conference for parents of gifted youth and other concerned adults is provided on an annual basis. In addition, research is conducted in rural and urban schools in response to issues in the field of gifted education.
10TH-GRADE COLLEGE PREPARATION TIPS

In the 10th grade, start zeroing your high schooler in more targeted learning experiences. Specifically, if your child likes a particular subject, such as the arts or sciences, look for courses, clubs, groups, etc., that will not only allow your child to gain more insight into those areas, but also connect them with like-minded young people and experts in the field. In addition, keep a watchful eye on their grades and schedule them to take the PSAT. Continue visiting colleges and universities; and if travel is an issue, check out www.campustours.com where you and your child can go on a number of virtual college tours. Lastly, retake the PSAT for another chance to practice.

11TH-GRADE COLLEGE PREPARATION TIPS

In the 11th grade, make sure your child keeps those grades up. It is the home stretch for their GPA. In fact, colleges will mostly use ninth through 11th grade grades when they apply for admission — especially if the college or university has an October through December admissions time line. At this point, you should also sign your child up to take the SAT or ACT (depending on which test is required or preferred by the colleges your child is interested).

If your child needs some additional test coaching, test prep companies or workshops conducted by your school counselor or an outside company can help bump up their scores (but do not go crazy about a specific score). Around this time, you should also step up college visits, meet with professors, and sit in on a class or two. Moreover, continue with learning experiences directly related to the subject areas and/or issues of your child's interests. In the 11th grade, your child should also retake the SAT or ACT if needed. Furthermore, begin the process of deciding which seven colleges (Yes, seven colleges.) your child is applying to. Review the top three to five schools on his or her list. Follow them on Twitter and Facebook, and check out their YouTube channel. Talk to department heads, student groups, career services or anyone else that can help your child make that final decision. While in the midst of everything going on, your child has to remember to maintain their grades. Some colleges will revoke your child's acceptance if their grades drop when the final transcript is submitted. Don't forget this is also a great time for your child to intern for organizations doing the kind of work they are interested in; or your child can even take on a leadership role at school or in any organization or club they're involved in.

12TH GRADE COLLEGE PREPARATION TIPS

When your child enters the 12th grade, do not panic. This is it! By now, you should have an idea of the type of college or university, as well as the academic programs, most suited to your child's needs. Next, have your child apply to the seven colleges he or she decided on. Depending on the school, you should hear back from them in February, March or April. Lastly, fill out the FAFSA application for financial aid (after you have filed your taxes) and relax.

Finally, resist the Ivy League or brand name game. I am not saying do not apply to them, but what I am saying is to choose schools that have the academic program, mission and philosophy, professors, student body and environment most suited for your child's success. There are plenty of successful doctors (Dr. Laura Berman), lawyers (Johnnie Cochran), CEOs (Warren Buffet), writers (John Grisham), politicians (Joe Biden), journalists (Robin Roberts), and actors/TV personalities (Oprah) who went to very good state schools. The name is not as important as the kind of education your child receives.

Dr. Will Deyamport III is an innovative leader in educational technology, leading the development of proactive and collaborative initiatives in support of teaching and learning. His research is in the pedagogical and andragogical challenges affecting the adoption of new learning environments and technologies. He is a frequent presenter at conferences and guest lecturer and regularly blogs and produces online content focused on the educational uses of web tools and social technologies. He is an alumnus of Capella University where he earned his Doctor of Education (Ed.D.) in educational leadership and management.
Connections
Participants in programs conducted by The Frances A. Karnes Center for Gifted Studies

PHIL JANOWICZ attended the Summer Program for Academically Talented in 1996, 1997 and 1998. Currently, Mr. Janowicz is a faculty member at California State-Fullerton as a professor of organic chemistry.

DALTON LEE BRIDGERS attended the Saturday Gifted Studies Program in 1999. He has recently graduated from the United States Air Force Academy with a Bachelors of Science in aeronautical engineering.

ELLYN K. DUNBAR attended the Saturday Gifted Studies Program from 2003-12, the Summer Gifted Program from 2005-06 and the Leadership Studies Program in 2013. This summer she was a counselor for two of the gifted studies programs. Ellyn is currently a sophomore at The University of Southern Mississippi. She received the Presidential Scholarship award at age 16 and is currently enrolled in the Honors College on campus where she has made the president's list both fall and spring semesters. She also holds a second-degree black belt in Tae Kwon Do.

JEWELLISA CLAY attended all three Leadership Studies Programs from summer 2006 to summer 2008. This summer Jewellisa was a counselor for all the gifted studies programs. Jewellisa is currently a sophomore at Jones County Junior College. Her list of awards and recognitions include: 2011-12 member of the Corians One of Petal High School show choirs; participant in the 2009 Presidential Inaugural Parade, January 20, 2009, in Washington D.C.; featured in the Mississippi State University's Mississippi Writing/Thinking Institute in 2010; a member of the All Superior Petal High School Marching Band in 2009-12; a member of Petal High School Concert Band from 2008-12; and a recipient of the 2012-13 Maroon Typhoon Band Scholarship at Jones County Junior College. Jewellisa has also received two Jones County Junior College Show Choir Scholarships and is a member of the Maroon Typhoon Band, JC Voices and JC Concert Choir.

JOLONDA CLAY attended all three Leadership Studies Programs over the summers of 2007-09 and has been a counselor for the programs the last two years. Jolonda is currently a sophomore at Jones County Junior College and expects to graduate in 2014. Special awards and recognitions include: Projects Petal High School from 2009-12; participant in the 2009 Presidential Inaugural Parade, January 20, 2009, in Washington D.C.; and she was featured in the Mississippi State University’s Mississippi Writing/Thinking Institute in 2010 and the Rural Voice Radio at Petal High School. Jolonda received the Maroon Typhoon Band Scholarship at Jones County Junior and is a member of the Maroon Typhoon Marching Band.
New Publications


Dr. Frances A. Karnes and Dr. Tracy Riley have written the book, The Best Competitions for Talented Kids. This book is the ultimate guide for winning and learning from competitions. In addition to its extensive listing of competitions, the book includes a unique “Competitions Journal” that helps students record their progress and success. The book features complete information on who to contact, how to enter, prizes, judging criteria, contest origin, significant dates and tips from the contest organizers themselves. The book is ideal for students and families seeking scholarship money and national recognition for skills and abilities in academics, the arts, leadership and community involvement.

Frances A. Karnes, Ph.D., is a distinguished professor of curriculum, instruction and special education at The University of Southern Mississippi and director of the Frances A. Karnes Center for Gifted Studies. She is widely known for her research, writing, innovative program developments, and service activities in gifted education and leadership training. Tracy L. Riley, Ph.D., is an associate professor who specializes in gifted and talented education at Massey University in New Zealand. She teaches undergraduate and postgraduate courses in the field, in addition to supervising postgraduate research.


Dr. Frances Karnes, distinguished university professor at The University of Southern Mississippi, and Dr. Kristin R. Stephens, assistant professor at Duke University, have co-edited another book in the Practical Strategies Series in Gifted Education published by Prufrock Press. The book, Serving Visual-Spatial Learners, was authored by Steve V. Coxon, Ph.D., who is a veteran public school teacher who now serves as assistant professor of gifted education at Maryville University in St. Louis. Coxon touches on the high spatial ability necessary in many fields, particularly in the visual and performing arts in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM). Serving Visual-Spatial Learners seeks to offer teachers, parents and others who work with pre-K to 12th-grade students a variety of means by which they can offer a spatially focused education and how to better address the needs of students with visual-spatial ability. The book seeks to answer the question: “Can spatial ability be improved in educational settings, and, if so, how?” Dr. Karnes has co-authored and co-edited 76 books.
EVENTS

Career Exploration

CAREER EXPLORATION FOR GIRLS CONFERENCE
— Saturday, November 2, 2013

The Career Explorations for Girls Conference will be conducted on the Hattiesburg campus of The University of Southern Mississippi on Saturday, November 2, 2013. The keynote speaker will be Dr. Ann Blackwell, dean of education and psychology at The University of Southern Mississippi. Her keynote address will be “Aim High for Success.” The conference is open to all girls in grades seventh through 12th, and each girl must be accompanied by her mother or another adult female. Girls do not need to be enrolled in gifted education to attend. Distinguished presenters will offer practical information to help girls plan for their education and entry into prospective careers. Careers to be discussed include business, science and technology, healthcare, social work, communication, education, nutrition, art, architecture, psychology, law, music and sports.

Gifted Studies

SATURDAY GIFTED STUDIES PROGRAM
— January 18 - March 1, 2014

The Saturday Gifted Studies Program will be held from January 18 to March 1, 2014, on the Hattiesburg campus of The University of Southern Mississippi. The program meets on seven consecutive Saturdays from 9 a.m. to noon from the middle of January through March 1. It is open to gifted students in pre-kindergarten (four or five years old) though 12th grade. The program is designed to enhance cognitive and affective abilities of gifted students through planned enrichment/acceleration programming. Emphasis is placed on participation in areas that provide in-depth analysis of specific topics in small-group activities with other gifted youth.

WHAT IS MAGC?

Founded by parents and teachers in 1974, Mississippi Association for Gifted Children (MAGC) is a nonprofit organization that serves as a public advocate for gifted children and youth in the state of Mississippi. MAGC is the only state-level organization specifically for the gifted. In 1988, MAGC initiated legislation that resulted in state-mandated gifted programs and their funding in all Mississippi public school districts.

For information regarding membership in MAGC, contact MAGC, P.O. Box 3545, Jackson, MS 39207, or visit www.magcweb.org.
2013 SUMMER PROGRAMS

DUKE TIP AWARD CEREMONY

The Frances A. Karnes Center for Gifted Studies hosted the Mississippi Recognition Awards Ceremony for the 33rd Annual Seventh Grade Talent Search on June 1, 2013, in Bennett Auditorium on the Southern Miss campus to honor Mississippi students recognized by Duke University’s Talent Identification Program. There were 89 students in attendance. Opening session greetings were given by Charlie Brown, former director of the Mississippi School of Math and Science. Carol Paola, executive director of the Mississippi Association of Gifted Children, also spoke on “Gifted Children in Mississippi.” Dr. Rodney Bennett, president of The University of Southern Mississippi, delivered the keynote address and Julie Bennington was the representative for the Duke Talent Identification Program.

Visit the Duke University TIP Program website at www.tip.duke.edu for more information on Duke TIP interactive courses, parenting resources and more.

LEADERSHIP STUDIES PROGRAM

The Leadership Studies Program was held from June 16-21, 2013, on the Hattiesburg campus of The University of Southern Mississippi. There were 63 students in attendance. This one-week residential program is designed for students in grades sixth through 11th, who have a desire to develop and enhance their leadership abilities. Training included those areas necessary for leadership development: fundamentals of leadership, written and oral communication, group dynamics, problem solving, planning, personal skills and decision making. Avenues for becoming leaders in the schools, communities and religious affiliations were utilized to heighten students’ awareness and development of leadership potential.

SUMMER GIFTED STUDIES PROGRAM

The Summer Gifted Studies Program was held June 23-28, 2013, on the Hattiesburg campus of The University of Southern Mississippi. There were 122 students in attendance. This one-week residential program is designed for intellectually gifted students in grades fourth through eighth with intelligence quotients of 120 or above on an individually administered test or in the 90th percentile or above at the national level on an achievement test. This program seeks to enhance the cognitive abilities of gifted students through the exploration of instructionally appropriate topics. Course selections included the following: How to Be a Detective; Business Leaders: Today and Tomorrow; Inventions: Money! Money! Money!; Express Yourself!; Designing Games; and Write On!

SUMMER PROGRAM FOR ACADEMICALLY TALENTED YOUTH

The Summer Program for Academically Talented Youth was held July 7-26, 2013, on the Hattiesburg campus of The University of Southern Mississippi. There were 55 students in attendance. This three-week residential program serves eligible students currently enrolled in grades seventh through 10th who scored at or above the level of entering college freshmen on the ACT or SAT. This program is a cooperative effort with the Duke University’s Talent Identification Program that provides a balance of educational, cultural and recreational experiences. Students completed an entire year’s high school-level coursework in three weeks. Moreover, guest speakers visited the classrooms to share with the students different career opportunities associated with each course. Course selections included the following: pre-calculus mathematics, human anatomy and physiology, psychology, writing and forensic science.
Founded by parents and teachers in 1974, the Mississippi Association for Gifted Children (MAGC) is a nonprofit organization that serves as a public advocate for gifted children and youth in the state of Mississippi. The mission of MAGC is to encourage advocacy, communication and collaboration among educators, parents, agencies and other organizations; address the unique needs of gifted children and improve the quality of their educational experiences; and work for improvement in all areas of education and for better educational opportunities for all children.

In 1988, MAGC initiated legislation that resulted in state mandated gifted programs and their funding in all Mississippi public school districts. What does Mississippi law say about gifted education? The Mississippi Gifted Education Act requires public school districts to provide gifted education programs for intellectually gifted students in grades second through sixth. These programs must be designed to meet the individual needs of gifted students and shall be in addition to, and different from, the regular program of instruction provided by the district. School districts may also provide programs for intellectually gifted students in grades seventh through 12th, creatively and artistically gifted students in grades second through 12th, and academically gifted students in grades ninth through 12th.

Why is it important to advocate for gifted children and youth?

- Gifted children are the only exceptional learners not protected under federal law for a free and appropriate public education.
- Gifted children are at a greater risk for underachievement.
- Many gifted children have mastered 35-50 percent of the school curriculum in the five core subject areas before their school year begins.
- Without appropriate challenges, gifted students are likely to regress to normal or below normal levels of achievement.
- America’s top students do not perform well when compared with their counterparts around the world.
- Most public school teachers are not equipped to deal with the special needs of gifted children because they have no specific training in gifted education.

Teachers, family members and others should join MAGC because it provides workshops and special training sessions for parents and teachers; publications and information for teachers and families of gifted children; student scholarships and teacher grants; opportunities for teachers and parents to network and form support groups; assistance to local parent affiliate groups who support gifted education in their communities; and an annual conference to supply training relevant to the education of gifted children and youth. MAGC’s parenting resources include information regarding summer programs, competitions and special schools designed for gifted students. Parents can also find a helpful chart on the MAGC website that lists characteristics of gifted children alongside possible problem behaviors.

In these uncertain economic times, it is doubly important that parents of gifted children join together to send the message to our legislature that gifted education for our children is valued. Please consider adding your voice to that of MAGC’s in support of gifted education for more than 34,000 gifted children in Mississippi. For more information, contact MAGC, P. O. Box 3545, Jackson, MS 39207 or visit www.magcweb.org.
Click on...

THE CENTER’S EXPANDED WEBSITE

Visit the expanded website for the Center at www.usm.edu/karnes-gifted.
Please offer your ideas on information to be added.

This provides a comprehensive overview of response to intervention (RTI) frameworks that include gifted students. This book incorporates national, state and local RTI models and how gifted learners can be included within these frameworks. Specific attention is given to addressing the needs of students who are twice exceptional and to culturally responsive practices.


This book helps to raise the awareness level and knowledge base of all educators, particularly teachers of the gifted who work with a kaleidoscope of special populations in gifted education. Chapters in this volume focus on topics such as gifted education in rural environments, highly gifted learners, twice exceptional children, gifted females, gifted and talented students on the autism spectrum, English language learners, underachievement, and students from culturally or linguistically diverse backgrounds.
THE FRANCES A. KARNES ENDOWED CHAIR IN GIFTED EDUCATION

WHAT IS AN ENDOWED CHAIR?
An endowed chair is a distinguished academic position that is funded through an endowment and is established to recognize visionary leadership to promote academic excellence.

WHY HAVE AN ENDOWED CHAIR?
An endowed chair provides assurance to the university and to the program that the position will be funded into perpetuity, eliminating the uncertainty of budget constraints and fluctuation of funding. The prestige of an endowed chair enriches the university by attracting and retaining highly qualified faculty.

HOW CAN THE ENDOWED CHAIR BE FUNDED?
The Frances A. Karnes Endowed Chair in Gifted Education will be funded by those individuals who share Dr. Karnes’ vision of meeting the educational needs and challenges of gifted students. Donors may include, but are not limited to, former students, parents, teachers and graduate students who worked with Dr. Karnes, and other supporters of The Frances A. Karnes Center for Gifted Studies.

WHAT IS OUR FUNDING GOAL?
The primary funding goal to establish The Frances A. Karnes Endowed Chair in Gifted Education is $1 million cash and $2 million in planned gifts. Although all gifts are appreciated regardless of amount, the cash goal may be accomplished by 100 donors, each committing $10,000 or more. Payments may be made in installments of up to five years. Planned gifts may be made in any amount to the endowed chair through a bequest in your will, irrevocable life insurance policy, gift annuity, life estate or charitable remainder trust.

HOW DO I INITIATE A GIFT?
Farsighted and generous friends of gifted education may initiate a gift by contacting The University of Southern Mississippi Foundation by calling 601.266.5210 or via email at foundation@usm.edu.

I want to become a Friend for Gifted Education. The funds generated will apply to scholarships for gifted, financially disadvantaged students, and for other notable purposes.

Please enroll me in the category checked below.
- Summa Cum Laude ($1,000+)
- Special Honor Roll ($100)
- Magna Cum Laude ($500)
- Honor Roll ($50)
- Cum Laude ($250)
- Student ($25)
- Laureate ($150)
- I would like to learn more about corporate sponsorships and donations.

Gifts are tax-deductible to the extent of current IRS regulations.

Name ____________________________________________
Mailing Address ____________________________________
City __________________________________ State ______ Zip _______
Home Phone (________ ) __________________________
Office Phone (________ ) __________________________
Email Address ______________________________________

This donation is a gift. Please send donation gift card to
Name ____________________________________________
Mailing Address ____________________________________
City __________________________________ State ______ Zip _______

Please accept this gift as a memorial to __________________________

☐ Enclosed is my check payable to the USM Foundation c/o The Frances A. Karnes Center for Gifted Studies.
☐ Charge my donation to my ☐ Business ☐ Personal credit card.
   ☐ VISA ☐ MasterCard ☐ American Express
Card Number ___________________________ Exp. Date __________
Cardholder Name/Business Name __________________________________________
Signature ______________________________________________________________

☐ My place of employment will match my gift.
Company Name _________________________________________________________
Mailing Address _______________________________________________________
City __________________________ State ______ Zip ______

☐ I would like information about how to include The Frances A. Karnes Center for Gifted Studies in my will.
☐ I would like more information about how to give stocks, property and life insurance.
☐ I give my permission to have my name listed with other donors.

Please send all donations to
THE USM FOUNDATION / FRIENDS FOR GIFTED EDUCATION
118 College Drive #5210, Hattiesburg, MS 39406-0001

Questions?
Please call the Center at 601.266.5236 or 601.266.5246.
The Frances A. Karnes Center for Gifted Studies
118 College Drive #8207, Hattiesburg, MS 39406-0001
Lost (HOPEFULLY TO BE FOUND)

Over the years, we have lost contact with some of our former program participants. Please help us find them by forwarding their names, addresses, email addresses and phone numbers. Thanks for helping.

Name ___________________________________________________________
Address _________________________________________________________
City, State, ZIP _________________________________________________
Phone (________) _________________________________
Email __________________________________________________________
Center programs affiliation(s) ______________________________________
Current school/year or career/position ________________________________
Activities or interests _____________________________________________

We express our continued gratitude to the members of the Advisory Council who have agreed to offer suggestions and support for the advancement of teaching, research and service initiatives of The Frances A. Karnes Center for Gifted Studies.

### Council Members
- Alex Agnew
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- Toby Barker
- Miranda Beard
- Dr. Hank Bounds
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- Ora Shaheed
- John Shappley
- Bobby Tatum
- Ted Webb
- Tracy Williams
- Dr. Chris Winstead

### Ex-Officio Members
- Dr. Ann Blackwell
- Warren Hood
- Dr. Willie Pierce

**Calendar**

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<td>November 2, 2013</td>
<td>Career Explorations for Girls Conference</td>
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