

# know**AND**

## DATES2KNOW

### March

- 1** **Teacher Recruitment Fair**  
Clark Atlanta University School of Education  
Learn more on page 8.
- 3** **Read Across America**  
Did you plan a special RAA event? Don't forget to email pictures to [know@gae.org](mailto:know@gae.org) or mail them to GAE, Attn: Editor, KNOW, 100 Crescent Centre Parkway, Suite 500, Tucker, GA 30084.
- 7-9** **NEA ESP National Conference | Baltimore, MD |**  
For more info, go to [www.nea.org](http://www.nea.org).
- 9** **Daylight Saving Time begins**
- 17** **St. Patrick's Day**
- 20** **Spring begins**
- 21** **The GAE State Spelling Bee**  
Georgia State University
- 23** **Easter**
- 26-28** **2008 Spring Conference: Agents of Change**  
School Social Workers Association of Georgia
- 28-30** **2008 Annual Higher Ed Conference**  
Washington, D.C.



### April

- 11-13** **The GAE Student Conference | Athens, GA |**  
Turn to page 8 for details.
- 19-20** **GAE Spring RA Atlanta, GA**  
Find more details on page 10.
- 20** **Passover**



If you've got  
**5 minutes,**  
go here.

#### [www.everybodywins.org](http://www.everybodywins.org)

EVERYBODY WINS! is a national literacy and mentoring nonprofit proven to build the skills and love of reading among low-income elementary students. By bringing volunteer mentors into schools for weekly one-on-one reading experiences, *everybody wins!*—children, schools, volunteers, their companies and ultimately, society. The EVERYBODY WINS! equation is simple: **one mentor, one child, one book at a time.**

#### [www.storycorps.net](http://www.storycorps.net)

Since 2003, almost 30,000 everyday people have shared life stories with family and friends in the StoryCorps StoryBooths. StoryCorps is an independent nonprofit project whose mission is to honor and celebrate one another's lives through listening. Each conversation is recorded on a free CD to take home and share and is archived for generations to come at the Library of Congress. Millions listen to the award-winning broadcasts on public radio and the Internet. StoryCorps is the largest oral history project of its kind, creating a growing portrait of who we really are as Americans.

#### [www.nea.org/healthcaresurvey](http://www.nea.org/healthcaresurvey)

NEA has partnered with the National Coalition for Health Care and CodeBlueNow, a nonprofit health policy organization, to develop a public opinion survey to learn what the American public values when it comes to health care coverage, cost, and quality. The survey will be available through March 31, 2008.

#### [www.educationalescapes.org](http://www.educationalescapes.org)

The *Educational Escapes* program is coordinated by the Huntsville/Madison County Convention & Visitors Bureau in conjunction with the Educational Directors of the partnering organizations. The goal of this program is to provide legitimate experiential learning opportunities while offering **FREE**, one-stop planning that is easy for you to manage.

#### [www.netsmartz.org](http://www.netsmartz.org)

The NetSmartz Workshop is an interactive, educational safety resource from the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children® (NCMEC) and Boys & Girls Clubs of America (BGCA) for children aged 5 to 17, parents, guardians, educators, and law enforcement that uses age-appropriate, 3-D activities to teach children how to stay safer on the Internet.

# tell

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“Low teacher pay comes at a very high cost. How can we expect educators to be focused, committed and at their best on a daily basis when they are fearful of the consequences of not earning enough to support their families? Each year we lose excellent teachers because they can’t afford to make ends meet. Low teacher pay shortchanges the teaching profession, and students end up paying the price.”

**Reg Weaver**  
NEA PRESIDENT



"Do you take credit cards?"

**Mario Luque**, our new KNOW cartoonist and GAE member, currently teaches 4th grade at Kincaid Elementary in Marietta, GA. He's worked as a caricature artist at Disney resorts and parks. Mario's illustrations and cartoons have been published in local and national publications. He someday hopes to become a nationally syndicated cartoonist. Drop Mario an email at [mлуque4@hotmail.com](mailto:mлуque4@hotmail.com).

#### DID YOU KNOW?

**The average one-year increase in public school-teacher salaries was 2.9 percent, while inflation escalated 3.9 percent. Over the past 10 years, the average salary for public schoolteachers increased only 1.3 percent after adjusting for inflation.**

—According to NEA's *Ranking and Estimates: Ranking of the States 2006 and Estimates of School Statistics 2007*

## “NOTABLES”

Science may have found a cure for most evils; but it has found no remedy for the worst of them all—the apathy of human beings.

**Helen Keller**

People seem not to see that their opinion of the world is also a confession of their character.

**Ralph Waldo Emerson**

Be aware of wonder. Live a balanced life—learn some and think some and draw and paint and sing and dance and play and work every day some.

**Robert Fulghum**

The illiterate of the 21st century will not be those who cannot read and write, but those who cannot learn, unlearn, and relearn.

**Alvin Toffler**

Love is a part of everyone who lives and breathes. Love is a force that binds all people together like drops of water in a mighty ocean. How can you not be of love? If you do not see love within, you have not looked.

**Ron Rathbun**

Humankind has not woven the web of life. We are but one thread within it. Whatever we do to the web, We do to ourselves. All things are bound together. All things connect.

**Chief Seattle**

Not to react, not to revise or embellish or expound, not even to respond, but simply to listen is a gift.

**Johan Christoph Arnold**

NEWS FOR STUDENT MEMBERS

NEWS FOR RETIRED MEMBERS

# GAE Student Conference

April 11-13, 2008

Holiday Inn-Athens

**What does it cost? \$50.** This fee covers two nights of accommodations, two breakfasts, one lunch, two dinners, workshop materials, a student program tote bag, and even a dance! (*Sorry, no refunds.*)

**Who can attend?** The conference is designed specifically for GAE's student members.

**What's the registration deadline? February 29.** The conference is open to the *first 100* registered participants. To register, contact Sharon Henderson at **678-837-1114** (or 800-282-7142, ext. 1114) or [sharon.henderson@gae.org](mailto:sharon.henderson@gae.org). For more info, go to [www.gae.org](http://www.gae.org).

Sessions include:

- How to Make a Good Day Great!
- Preparing for the Interview
- Difficult Conversations
- Teaching Math Through the Magic of Music
- Developing Community with Your Students

# NEA Student Leadership Conference

June 26-29, 2008 | Washington, D.C.

To find out how you can attend, contact GAE UniServ Director Michael Sears at [michael.sears@gae.org](mailto:michael.sears@gae.org).

## Interested in getting involved in GAE-Retired?

GAE-Retired is growing every day, and we need retirees who would like to remain involved in public education, the Association, and public service. **Do you want to volunteer on your own terms and still remain a part of Public Education's strongest voice?** *Then come join us.*

## Ready to take the lead?

Every two years we elect our executive officers (president, vice president, treasurer, & secretary) at the Spring General Meeting. The incoming President makes appointments to committees. Each committee needs a chair and several members who are willing to work hard to improve education, our Association, and the communities we live in.

*Are you ready to help?* Send your name to:  
 Bobbie Sharp  
 Georgia Association of Educators  
 100 Crescent Centre Parkway, Suite 500  
 Tucker, GA 30084

## Your 2006-2008 GAE-R Executive Committee

**Treasurer**  
 Helen Zappia  
[zappiaj@bellsouth.net](mailto:zappiaj@bellsouth.net)

**President**  
 Dan Powers  
[powersld@hotmail.com](mailto:powersld@hotmail.com)

**Board of Directors**  
 Lynda Wolfe Smith  
[lyndawolfe@bellsouth.net](mailto:lyndawolfe@bellsouth.net)

**Vice President**  
 Cheryl Sarvis  
[cherylsarvis@aol.com](mailto:cherylsarvis@aol.com)

Grady Yancey, Jr.  
[yancey444@bellsouth.net](mailto:yancey444@bellsouth.net)

**Secretary**  
 Dot Black  
[dotblack1@cox.net](mailto:dotblack1@cox.net)

**Staff Liaison**  
 Ahrien Johnson  
 678-837-1141  
[ahrien.johnson@gae.org](mailto:ahrien.johnson@gae.org)

## Fernbank offers Outreach Programs

Education Specialists from Atlanta's Fernbank Museum of Natural History are hitting the road and ready to come to your classroom with outreach programs correlated to the GPS standards. Interactive classroom-based earth and life science programs are available for grades K-5. Outreach programs cover topics such as plant and animal diversity, lifecycles, habitats, insects, rocks and fossils. To book your program, contact 404.929.6403 or [schooloutreach@fernbank.edu](mailto:schooloutreach@fernbank.edu).

Fernbank also offers *UrbanWatch Atlanta*, a hands-on learning experience that is easily correlated to the GPS. You and your students will learn how to conduct biological inventories of local green spaces, such as schoolyards or neighborhood parks. A one-year commitment is required. For more information contact us at 404.929.6396 or [urbanwatch@fernbank.edu](mailto:urbanwatch@fernbank.edu).

*Please note: Program fees and availability vary. Please contact Fernbank Museum of Natural History for additional information.*

Check it out at [www.fernbankmuseum.org](http://www.fernbankmuseum.org)

## Professional Development Opportunity: "The Magic Touch for Your Classroom"



GAE Professional Development UniServ Directors are offering a new training, "Classroom Management: A Hands-on Approach. Learn more about classroom management strategies and styles. Members can receive 1 PLU provided that the appropriate materials are completed and submitted and they attend all 10 hours of training. Workshop and lunch are provided *free* to members. Non-members may attend for \$50 per session. New educators and experienced educators are welcome. Space is limited. Register today!

**One (1) PLU** will be awarded through the Georgia DOE to each participant who meets requirements (including prior approval of school district and completion of all 10 contact hours).

To register, contact Sharon Henderson at  
(678)837-1114 or (800)282-7142, ext. 1114.

### Dates and locations.

**March 1 & March 29**  
Henderson Village  
125 South Langston Circle, Perry, GA

**March 15 & April 5**  
Doubletree Hotel  
2651 Perimeter Parkway, Augusta, GA

**February 23 & March 8**  
GAE HQ  
100 Crescent Centre Pkwy.  
Suite 500, Tucker, GA

## Teen readers vote for favorite book.

More than 6,000 teen readers across the country voted during **Teen Read Week, October 14–20**. The poll was sponsored by the Young Adult Library Services Association, a Read Across America partner. Their favorite book? *New Moon* by Stephenie Meyer. For more information, visit [www.ala.org/teenstopten](http://www.ala.org/teenstopten).

# 2007 Teens' Top Ten

1. *New Moon* by Stephenie Meyer  
(Little, Brown Books for Young Readers, 2006)
2. *Just Listen* by Sarah Dessen  
(Viking Children's Books, 2006)
3. *How to Ruin a Summer Vacation* by Simone Elkeles  
(Flux, 2006)
4. *Maximum Ride: School's Out – Forever* by James Patterson  
(Hachette Book Group USA/Little, Brown Books for Young Readers, 2006)
5. *Firegirl* by Tony Abbott  
(Hachette Book Group USA/Little, Brown Books for Young Readers, 2006)
6. *All Hallows Eve (13 Stories)* by Vivian Vande Velde  
(Harcourt, 2006)
7. *Life As We Knew It* by Susan Beth Pfeffer  
(Harcourt, 2006)
8. *River Secrets* by Shannon Hale  
(Bloomsbury, 2006)
9. *Bad Kitty* by Michele Jaffe  
(HarperCollins, 2006)
10. *Road of the Dead* by Kevin Brooks  
(Chicken House, 2006)

### EVENT The BEE is coming!

## The GAE State Spelling Bee

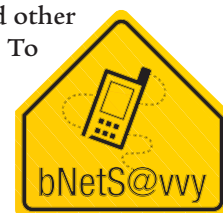
**March 21, 2008**  
Georgia State University  
Atlanta, GA



For more Spelling Bee information, visit [www.gae.org](http://www.gae.org) or call GAE's Anne Pullins at 678-837-1133 or 800-282-7142

### Keep your young teens safe online with these tools.

NEA's Health Information Network is pleased to announce the creation of **bNetS@vvy**, a bi-monthly e-newsletter to help "tweens" (ages 9 to 14) stay safer online. It's part of the 4NetSafety project developed in collaboration with the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children and Sprint. Written by kids, parents, educators, and technology experts, bNetS@vvy is designed to give adults real world stories, resources, and skills to help keep young people safer on MySpace, Facebook, and other social networking sites and while using IM, texting, and other wireless technologies. To subscribe, go to [www.bnetsavvy.org](http://www.bnetsavvy.org).





**YOUR GUIDE TO THE 2008 GAE SPRING RA**

# GAE's 2008 Spring Representative Assembly **Apr. 19-20** Atlanta, GA Renaissance Concourse Hotel

## SPECIAL RA EVENT

### Presidents & GAE-FPE Breakfast

Sunday, April 20, 2008 | 7:00 a.m.

Join us for a special breakfast honoring local association presidents, FPE contributors, and GAE's Legislator(s) of the Year. For ticket information, contact GAE's Barbara Kirby at 678-837-1121 or 800-282-7142 (ext. 1121) or [barbara.kirby@gae.org](mailto:barbara.kirby@gae.org). Presidents, GAE-FPE, and Platinum, Diamond Club and Pacesetter contributors receive complimentary breakfast tickets.

## EVENT

### Mission Impossible

The School Social Workers Association of Georgia (SSWAG)  
2008 Spring Conference: Agents of Change

March 26-28, 2008

Sea Palms Golf & Tennis Resort, St. Simons Island, Georgia  
For more information, visit [www.sswag.org](http://www.sswag.org).

*The School Social Workers Association of Georgia exists to improve the quality of services to students so as to enhance their individual and educational potential.*

## REGISTRATION INFORMATION

The conference site is located at:

Renaissance Concourse Hotel  
One Hartsfield Centre Parkway  
Atlanta, Georgia 30354

### HOW TO RESERVE YOUR ROOM:

Reservations will be handled on an individual basis. Please contact the hotel at 888-391-8724 or 404-209-9999. Guests should reference "Georgia Association of Educators" when making reservations. Room rates are \$102 (single or double)\*. Reservations received after **April 7th** will be for general sale on a first-come, first-served basis. You will not be guaranteed the group rate. Overnight parking rates are \$6 daily (self-parking) or \$10 daily (valet).

*\*Portion of room rate to defray conference costs*

### DRIVING DIRECTIONS:

**Traveling north on I-85...**to exit 72, Air Cargo/Loop Road. Turn right at second traffic light. Hotel is one block on right.

**Traveling south on I-85...**to exit 74, Loop Road, proceed on exit ramp thru traffic light. Hotel is one block on right.

**Traveling east on I-285...**exit I-85 North to exit 72, Air Cargo/Loop Road. Turn right at second traffic light. Hotel is one block on right.

**Traveling south on I-285...**exit Camp Creek Parkway. At top of ramp turn left, proceed on Camp Creek for 3 miles. Take exit to I-85 North and then exit to the right (Airport Loop Road). Turn right at second traffic light. Hotel is one block on right.

**Traveling north on I-75...**exit 239, Aviation Boulevard. At top of the ramp turn right. At third traffic light, turn right, onto North Loop Road. Proceed on North Loop Road 2 miles; turn left at Woolman Place (first traffic light past Delta Airlines General Offices). Hotel entrance is one block on right.

**Traveling south on I-75...**exit I-85 South to exit 74, Loop Road. Proceed on exit ramp through traffic light. Hotel is one block on right.

**Traveling from the airport...**take the airport shuttle from the Baggage Claim area. Use exit marked *Ground Transportation*. Proceed to third (farthest) island. Hotel van is white with bronze lettering and operates continuously, 24-hours per day, in 15-minute increments. For your convenience, there is a courtesy phone located in the pick-up area, which will connect you directly with the hotel.



# If you're a principal, you could spend August in **Brazil.**

*The Fulbright Teacher Exchange Program* of the U.S. Department of State is pleased to provide an opportunity for U.S. middle/high public school principals who have been **recognized for their excellence, achievement and/or leadership as an educator on a local, regional or national level** to learn more about the Brazilian educational system, visit Brazilian schools, and interact with Brazilian administrators, teachers, and students. Award-winning principals from more than 20 Brazilian states will join U.S. counterparts to share best practices in school leadership and administration, teacher development, and community involvement. U.S. principals will be paired with award-winning Brazilian administrators and travel to two different Brazilian states to visit various schools for one week of observation and work-shadowing. Award-winning principals from the 27 Brazilian states will join U.S. counterparts to share best practices in school leadership and management. At the end of their stay in Brazil, U.S. principals will be asked to make a presentation on their experience as administrators within the U.S. education system. Dates: August 2-16, 2008. To be eligible, you must be a principal or assistant principal of a public middle or high school who has been recognized on a local, regional, or national level for excellence, achievement, and/or leadership. Ability to understand Portuguese is not required. Knowledge of related languages such as French or Spanish will be viewed favorably.



Rio de Janeiro and Sugar Loaf Mountain

**DEADLINE:** March 15, 2008.

**TO APPLY:** Go to [www.fulbrightexchanges.org](http://www.fulbrightexchanges.org).

### Apply for a **literacy and education grant.**

The Build a Bear Company awards literacy and education grants to help children twice a year for specific programs with measurable outcomes. The Build a Bear Company desires to provide support for children in literacy and education programs such as summer reading programs, early childhood education programs and literacy programs for children with special needs.

**DEADLINE:** August 30, 2008.

**TO APPLY:** Go to [www.buildabear.com](http://www.buildabear.com).

### Inspire the youth in your community to become the preservationists of tomorrow.

Each year, *The History Channel* awards grants of up to \$10,000 to organizations (museums, historic sites, historical societies, preservation organizations, etc.) across the nation that partner with schools or youth groups on community preservation projects that engage students in learning about, documenting and preserving the history of their communities.

**DEADLINE:** June 6, 2008.

**TO APPLY:** Go to [www.history.com](http://www.history.com) or email [info@saveourhistory.com](mailto:info@saveourhistory.com).

# NEA ESP Leaders for Tomorrow

*Are you ESP Leader for Tomorrow?*



The National Education Association (NEA) is searching for outstanding education support professionals interested in a leadership opportunity. The **NEA Leaders for Tomorrow** program is a three session training program held over an eight-month period. This program is open to dues paying NEA ESP members who meet the program's eligibility requirements. A candidate must be nominated for the program and have his/her application acknowledged and signed by his/her state association.

**Only 20 candidates will be selected.**

Leaders for Tomorrow will train both current and future leaders in leadership attitudes, skills and knowledge that will enhance their ability to be visible, vocal advocates at the local, state and national levels of the NEA.

**Through this program, you will learn the following:**

- how to identify personal strengths and weaknesses and utilize them as a leader;
- how to build skills in areas such as communications, organizing and recruitment, team building and presentation skills;
- how to use the NEA structure, resources, culture and work effectively as a leader;
- and how to engage members in politics.

To be eligible, you must be a current NEA ESP member in good standing for the past three years; submit a completed application form by the deadline; commit to participating fully in all three training sessions; commit to utilizing your new skills in your association; and agree to a phone interview prior to final selections.



## Training session dates

**July 23-27, 2008**  
Portland, Oregon

**November 14-16, 2008**  
Washington, DC

**March 9-15, 2009**  
Orlando, FL

*\*includes attendance at the  
NEA ESP National Conference*

Travel may be required one day prior to start of session and/or one day after end of session. All participants are fully funded as allowed under the NEA travel guidelines, including transportation, lodging, meals and substitute pay OR salary reimbursement, including attendance to the ESP conference.

# If you could change one thing about the “No Child Left Behind” Act, what would it be?\*

**Toby Westmoreland, Ed.S.**

▶ *No Child Left Behind* has a worthy merit or two. I believe in teacher accountability when the cards are fairly stacked! I believe all students should learn and be exposed to the general curriculum as much as possible. As a professional, I also realize that no matter how many regular education classes or how many differentiation strategies the best teachers try, not every child can learn at the same pace. With *NCLB*, we are pushing too much information too fast. What happened to scaffolding information? At some point, we have to allow students to become fully acclimated to concepts before we try to add levels of understanding. Give the kids a break!

**William Pugh** ▶ I would do away with it. Period. *NCLB* holds everyone behind. I see nothing positive about this program.

**Lea Ogozlec** ▶ As a Special Needs Paraprofessional currently working with Pre-K students, I have seen one aspect of *NCLB* that I have really surprised me, as has my reaction to it. I feel very strongly that *NCLB*, along with the *American Disabilities Act*, backfired on our “typical” children. So very much emphasis has been placed on the needs of the Special needs child that the “typical” child has actually been left wanting. As someone who works with special needs children, I never would have thought that this would bother me. The pendulum has swung so far in favor of the special needs child that our “typical” children are no longer getting the education they deserve. Any revisions to *NCLB* need to

be more sympathetic to the fact that most of the children in public schools today are “typical” children. When it comes to funding and requirements, we should make the playing field more level.

**Cassandra Anderson** ▶ I am a Special Education Paraprofessional in the Upson County School System. I have been employed here for five years. In my opinion, The *No Child Left Behind* Act has proposed a lot of positive changes. However, they left the paraprofessionals behind. The act was to ensure that all children would receive a good education by well-trained and certified paraprofessionals. But what happened to the pay? I love my job, but I have to work two jobs just to make ends meet. So who got left behind?

**Cheri L. Alderman** ▶ I would have had experienced educators write *NCLB* rather than politicians. Businessmen and politicians deal in numbers. Teachers deal in real people. There is a huge difference. If you have never set foot in a classroom, you do not understand what it means to teach. You could not possibly understand what it means to really have *No Child Left Behind*. Teachers are already accountable to the children whose futures they shape. It’s now time to hold parents accountable and to hold students accountable for their own learning.

**Jerrie Perry** ▶ I would get rid of it. In southwest Georgia, our students are dropping out because of the Act.

**Shannon Luppens** ▶ I would change the idea that “everyone” is going to read on grade level and that “all” children learn the same way. That is simply not true. It sets up our children with special needs for failure. Testing week is awful for them because they are cognitively not ready for grade level material. They have accomplished so much during the year. I feel that we need more than one test to judge the progress of our children.

**Caroline Anderson** ▶ English Language Learners new to the country should only be assessed using a test of language proficiency which is designed and written for them—for their first two years. We now have a good test that assesses academic language proficiency, WIDA’s ACCESS. This four-part test is certainly exhaustive enough to be able to assess whether adequate yearly progress has been made. We just need to set achievement objectives. Currently, first-year ELLs also have to take portions of the county level benchmark tests, the CRCT, and the ITBS and COGAT, if they are in those grade levels. In their second year, they have to take all these tests in their entirety. The students are so used to being asked to do tests that are way too difficult, that it is hard to get them to take any test seriously. Lastly, since all these regular ed. tests have to be read to ELLs, the ESOL teacher

ABOUT THIS ISSUE

The Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), renamed the *No Child Left Behind* (NCLB) Act of 2001, established laudable goals—high standards and accountability for the learning of all children. While the *NCLB* Act established goals everyone supports—high standards and accountability—it is also falling short of its goals for many reasons. NEA believes that the law must be fundamentally improved and federal lawmakers need to provide adequate funding if *NCLB* is to achieve its goal. Now, *NCLB* is up for reauthorization. As a member of GAE and NEA, your opinions matter. Use your voice to influence Congress as it considers changing the law. Reauthorization offers educators the opportunity to make *NCLB* more workable and more responsive to the real needs of children.

spends around a quarter of the entire school year testing. I know what they don’t know, but wish I had more time to teach them!

**Beth Jobe** ▶ I would hope that progress would be used as a measurement of success rather than scores from a test taken on a given day. Each time I read about the mandates of *NCLB*, they begin to sound more preposterous than the last time I read them. I am all for educator accountability and student success, but I believe we should teach children to master skills—not “expose” them to skills in hopes that they succeed on a test!

To check out the NEA’s comprehensive plan (Positive Agenda for the ESEA authorization) to make the *NCLB* law better, go to [www.nea.org](http://www.nea.org).

\* Some responses were edited for length.