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CEC: Clinical Exchange Corner

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Clinical Education Complex
at Western Kentucky University

Clinical Exchange Corner

Winter 2008

Autism Awareness Festival Planned for April

We are delighted to announce the first annual Southern Kentucky Autism Awareness Festival which will be held on Saturday, April 19, 2008 on the South Lawn of Western Kentucky University's Campus. This will be a family oriented event which will offer an opportunity for families of individuals on the Autism Spectrum to meet and mingle with other families, therapists, volunteers, professionals and local autism providers. There will be games, food, activities, entertainment, information, support and lots of fun offered in a festival atmosphere.

The goal of this Autism Awareness Festival is threefold: 1.) Raise awareness about problems facing families affected by autism; 2.) Educate families about various treatment options for autism; 3.) Provide a festive, informative, family focused outing. The event will kick off with a Balloon Release and Fun Walk around Western's Campus at 1:00 pm.

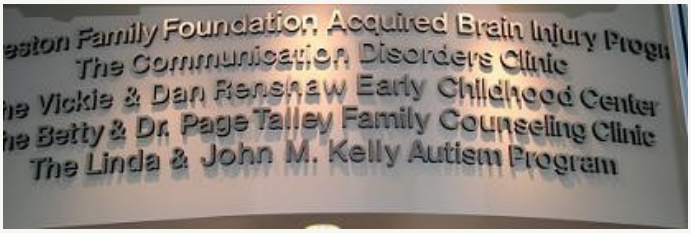
From 2:00 pm until 5:00 pm on the South Lawn of Western's Campus, booths will be set up where local autism providers including therapists, school systems, therapy dogs, etc., will be present to offer information and resources about the services they can provide to families with individuals on the autism spectrum. This will be a unique event in that these local resources have never been together in the same location to offer information and support.

In addition to offering information and support, the afternoon will provide many fun activities. There will be an Emcee with planned segments on stage throughout the afternoon. There will be face painting for the young and the young at heart. There will be games and inflatable activities for the children including a Giant Slide, an Obstacle Course, a Kiddie Maze, a Moonwalk, a Velcro Wall and a Dunking Booth! We will even have a clown! Food booths will also be available.

We hope that everyone will mark your calendars and plan to join us at the 2008 Waiora Autism Awareness Festival!

Upcoming Events:

- Dr. Bob Wubbolding's Workshop at the Carroll Knicely Center—March 4
- Autism Awareness Festival—April 19
- Dr. Temple Grandin—September 4



WHAS Crusade for Children Award Presentation

Rebecca Jackson, CEO of the WHAS Crusade for Children, was at the CEC on Monday, January 14th, to present a check in the amount of $87,430. A large part of this grant award will benefit the Early Childhood Center and the Kelly Autism Program. Pictured at left is Rebecca Jackson (center) presenting the check to (l to r) Mary Lloyd Moore, Dr. Phillip Myers, Dr. Janice Ferguson, Ms. Jackson, Vicki Beach, Dr. Marty Boman and Lisa Murphy.

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The Kelly Autism Program and the Early Childhood Center are proud to be recipients of the WHAS Crusade for Children grant.

Communication Disorders Clinic News

We have had a very successful and productive fall 2007 semester. Our Certificate of Need was approved, which enabled us to receive state licensure as an Outpatient Rehabilitation Clinic. We had our re-licensure visit on Wednesday, November 28th and passed with flying colors! We are the only university Communication Disorders Clinic in the state of Kentucky that is licensed as an Outpatient Rehabilitation Clinic.

The Fall semester consisted of 86 clients (including 4 at the Adult Day Care Center and 2 children at Jones Jaggers) with 50 graduate and undergraduate clinicians and 9 supervisors. There were a variety of difficulties including language, articulation, fluency, auditory processing difficulties, Autism, Down syndrome, Apraxia, English as a Second Language, TBI and Stroke. We also had a client with a cochlear implant. Our clients ranged in age from 1.5 to 80 years old.

The spring, 2008 roster includes 92 clients (including 4 at the Adult Day Care Center, 3 at Jones Jaggers and 5 new ELL clients) being served by 49 graduate and undergraduate clinicians and 9 supervisors. There are currently 2 clients on the waiting list. We look forward to a productive Spring semester!

"With the new ideas from parents, the FRP will continue monthly groups for educational and supportive purposes."

Acquired Brain Injury Resource Program Information

ABIRP Awarded Grant Funds

The Preston Family Acquired Brain Injury Resource Program has been awarded a $10,000 grant from the Alline Reneau Trust to assist brain-injured individuals who would like to take online courses from WKU. The money will be used to purchase, train and support the technology the students will need to use to complete the courses. Students will need to register for the classes on their own and demonstrate successful completion of the coursework. For more information about this opportunity, please contact the CEC.

International Festival Participation

The 5th annual Bowling Green International Festival was held on September 29, 2007, and the Preston Family Acquired Brain Injury Resource Program and the Brain Injury Association of Kentucky teamed together to raise funds for their respective organizations by selling pretzels and soft drinks. A total of $750 was raised during the event.

Family Resource Program

"Who is that over there?" That was a common question with the many changes to the Family Resource Program (FRP) at the beginning of the semester. The year for the FRP started with a new location and a change of staff. Now we are permanently located in Room 104 of the Clinical Education Complex, adjacent to the conference room. The FRP is staffed by two interns, a graduate assistant and a director. With the additional staff this year, the Family Resource Program has been able to enhance programming and collaborations.

The Family Resource Program hosted a Parents' Coffee Hour with the Early Childhood Center to allow parents to express their needs and concerns. With the new ideas from parents, the FRP will continue monthly groups for educational and supportive purposes.

The FRP continued its involvement with the Bowling Green Housing Authority. Monthly educational seminars were provided to families who are residents of the public housing units. During the course of the semester, sessions were provided on self-esteem and stress management. The families of the Housing Authority were most appreciative of the support of the FRP.

Although the FRP has been busy building relationships in the community and with in the CEC, the program continues to act as the information hub of the CEC. The FRP offers assessments, parent education, family caregiver support, screenings, referrals, educational support and a lending library. The FRP has plans to continue programming for next semester and offer Continuing Education Units (CEUs) for community professionals in multiple disciplines. An advisory committee is being developed that will include parents, university faculty, community volunteers and professionals to enhance the services provided by the FRP.

For more information about the Family Resource Program, contact the staff at 745-2784.

The Kelly Autism Program and the Early Childhood Center are proud to be recipients of the WHAS Crusade for Children grant.

Kelly Autism Program completes first semester at CEC

The fall semester ended on a high note as the Kelly Autism Program completed the first semester in its new home at the Clinical Education Complex. The participants have acclimated well to the new area and are utilizing every room. Census continues to increase in all age groups. This was evident at the holiday celebration when the entire event hall was full at Holy Spirit Catholic Church. It was wonderful to see how the KAP family has continued to grow!

The Alliance Awards were held in October where another substantial group gathered to honor KAP's community partners. These partners provided jobs for all KAP participants over the age of 16 during the summer session. With this support from the Bowling Green community and Western Kentucky University, KAP is able to provide the strategies to assist the participants and their families in their journey toward independence and productivity. Again, thank you to these businesses and organizations.

On a closing note, there were many activities held in addition to KAP's regularly scheduled hours. The University Experience class hosted a Halloween party for the elementary group and the University Student Activities Board provided activities for the "Circle of Support" group. KAP again worked with the Students in Free Enterprise to have one of the most successful KAP Signature Christmas Card programs to date! The elementary program participated in their first art show with VSA in the fall, while the middle and high school participants will be involved with the January show at the Kentucky Museum. The possibilities continue as the community and university support the Kelly Autism Program and its endeavors. The year 2007 will be remembered fondly by KAP participants, their families, staff and directors.

Family Counseling Clinic

"Before everything else; getting ready is the secret of success." - Henry Ford: Inspirational Quotes on Getting Better.

New Year's Eve has come and gone. You have probably made some new goals or resolutions. Are you ready? Have you thought about what you need to do to achieve your plans and goals? Do you need to make a change? If so, the Family Counseling Clinic is here to assist you in reaching your goals.

To help people "get ready", the Talley Family Counseling Clinic has been busy. Fall 2007 saw a significant increase in the number of counseling sessions (individual and family) conducted at the clinic; student interns—Katie Bowers, Georgeanna Gibson, Gretchen Light and Todd Noffsinger—have had many opportunities to help people explore their issues and challenges and work toward positive solutions and awareness. More than 60 sessions were held in October and at least 80 in November!

In an effort to serve the local professional community, many professional development seminars are sponsored by the FCC. These events are underwritten by the Chris and Kim Thomas Foundation for Excellence.

The Family Counseling Clinic is part of the Bowling Green community and has hosted events for the local clergy and legal representatives to help promote awareness of the FCC and how we may be able to assist them with their clients and parishioners. Dr. Tammy Shaffer has also been an invited guest on WUHU and WBVR radio stations to promote the FCC.

Georgeanna Gibson represented the Family Counseling Clinic on November 1st at the Barren River Regional Speech Meeting at Barren River State Park. In addition, the counseling interns gave a presentation entitled, *Helping Children Handle their Anger Appropriately & Handling their Stress* for the Family Enrichment Center in November.

The Family Counseling Clinic has several events planned for the spring semester as well. Two upcoming events include *Dealing with Disengaged, Disillusioned and Disenchanted Clients and Students* with Dr. Bob Wubbolding and *Teenage Dating Violence: What Parents Need to Know* with Dr. Bill Pfohl.

Please contact the Family Counseling Clinic if we can be of assistance to you or if you have programming suggestions on how we can serve you and our community families and professionals.

Best wishes for 2008!

"Before everything else; getting ready is the secret of success."

-Henry Ford

The Kelly Autism Program and the Early Childhood Center are proud to be recipients of the WHAS Crusade for Children grant.

Parent Spotlight

We recently moved to the area and were looking for just that right fit for our son, Turner. Turner has the diagnosis of Language Disorder. He has had a really hard time with transitions in the past along with being able to trust someone other than his parents and grandparents. Turner would not eat but a few things (five to be exact). We found out about the Big Red School from searching the internet. I emailed Lisa Murphy and had a response back within the day. We were talking by the end of the week and had an appointment to come and see what was happening at the Big Red School.

To tell you how much Turner has blossomed would take a complete novel. They have built in him a trust that had never been built before by anyone. Turner has learned how to develop friendships, how to sit on the mat for story time, that it is okay to try new foods and like them, learned to sit on the potty, that it is okay to go to school and be away from mommy and daddy and he has learned social skills that he will carry with him throughout life.

We are so lucky to have found the Big Red School. Tears fill our eyes and hearts when he starts talking about his day at the Big Red School, for you see before the Big Red School, you could ask him a question and he would not know how to respond. We tell everyone about the Big Red School, including Turner's physicians at Vanderbilt Children's Hospital in Nashville. They have been totally amazed by his progress and growth. They have even asked for information on the Big Red School for the other patients they have that live in the Bowling Green area.

Jarrett and Leigh Ann Millsaps

Music and Movement at Big Red School

"Often we see children imitate for the first time during our music classes...or wave at a peer whom they had not acknowledged prior to the class."

Music and movement has long been recognized as an integral part of child development, but it is not until recently that it has come to the forefront in terms of its value to early intervention. Each developmental play group at Big Red School has a music and movement component. We see firsthand how this medium affects all of the children we serve, but often it is the research itself that speaks to the community at large. Recent research is the arena of autism regarding music and movement reports that individuals with autism who participate in a music program display increased appropriate social behaviors and decreased inappropriate, stereotypical and self-stimulatory behaviors. There is also an increase in attention to task and communicative acts and engagement with others. Often we see children imitate for the first time during our music classes or they may hand something to or wave at a peer whom they had not acknowledged prior to the class.

Research also states that children of all abilities benefit from enhanced body awareness and coordination when they participate in a quality music program. All our children are learning to jump with two feet, keep a steady beat with their body and walk in a line to music. Even some of our adults who are not musically inclined have noticed their ability to keep a steady beat improved! Rhythm is essential to language and often is a catalyst for teaching longer utterances to children with language disorders.

With specific regard to Big Red School, we can certainly show evidence of positive effects in the form of reduced anxiety, increased imitation and communication, improved self help skills and social awareness.

The research findings stated here are evidenced for us every day in Big Red School. We invite you to come watch a music and movement class and see "magic of music" for yourself!

References for this article are available by request.

Clinical Education Complex News

CEC ENTERS DREAM PROGRAM PARTNERSHIP WITH DYNAVOX

We are delighted to announce that the Clinical Education Complex will partner with Dynavox in their Dream Program whereby Dynavox will train faculty in the use of their Augmentative-Alternative Communication (AAC) equipment so that we may use it free of charge for two weeks to determine if a particular device will be appropriate for a particular client. This capacity will greatly enhance our range of range of AAC equipment available to both clients and students at the CEC. For further information, please contact the Clinical Education Complex at 745-2183.

NATIONAL STUDENT SPEECH LANGUAGE AND HEARING ASSOCATION CHAPTER (NSSLHA) PRESENTS GIFT OF "VOICE" FOR CHRISTMAS

During the Fall 2007 semester, we were contacted by one of our former communication disorders students, who is currently employed as a speech-language pathologist in a local nursing home facility. She said that one of her clients in the nursing home had need of an AAC device. Apparently the elderly lady client is nonverbal and is unable to express her needs to the staff at the facility. Our student had been trained in the use of AAC devices and had located a device that would be appropriate for the client to use; however, the woman could not afford to purchase the device. It also appeared that Medicare would not pay for the device since she was in a nursing facility.

Once this information was shared with our NSSLHA group, they sprung into action and used a portion of monies that they raised during the semester to send a check for the communication device to be given to the lady in the nursing home. In so doing, our students generously gave to the lady the gift of "voice" for Christmas. Not only are our students engaged in the learning process, but they believe in the importance of communication to the extent that they would share this gift with a person they've never met. They haven't been generous and kind for notoriety, but because someone needed help and they were able to provide the needed funds. We applaud these students as excellent examples of meaningful student engagement and generosity.

CEC TO INSTALL STATE OF THE ART IVS CLASSROOM

The CEC is pleased to announce the addition of state of the art equipment in the classroom which will provide the ability to broadcast support groups and seminars from here, as well as to teach classes and broadcast to WKU's extended campuses. This technology enhancement will significantly increase our outreach and service delivery capabilities. The equipment has been installed and is operating beautifully!

MEETING REMINDER

The Southern Kentucky Brain Injury Action Team meets once a month at SKY Rehabilitation Hospital in Bowling Green. For more information, contact Jamie Miller at 782-6900 or jamie.miller@biak.us.

SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER

Temple Grandin, Ph.D. will be at WKU on September 4th for the KAP first year celebration at the CEC! Dr. Grandin is known as the "most accomplished and well-known adult with autism in the world".

According to the website, www.templegrandin.com, Dr. Grandin was non-verbal until she was three and a half years old, instead communicating by screaming, peeping and humming. She was labeled "autistic" in 1950 and her parents were advised that she should be institutionalized.

She tells her story of 'groping her way from the far side of darkness' in her book *Emergence: Labeled Autistic*. Dr. Grandin moved on to become a successful livestock handling equipment designer, one of very few in the world. She has designed the facilities in which half of the United States' cattle are handled.

Dr. Grandin will visit the WKU Agriculture Department on the afternoon of September 4th. Later that evening, she will present a lecture at Diddle Arena. Watch for more details in future editions of the CEC newsletter, as well as the CEC website at www.wkucec.com. We hope everyone will join us!

WITH HEARTFELT THANKS

We'd like to extend a special thank you to the following:

Vickie and Dan Renshaw
WHAS Crusade for Children
Doug Ault
Leisa Hutchison

"Not only are our students engaged in the learning process, but they believe in the importance of communication to the extent that they would share this gift..."

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