

Fall 2017

CEC Newsletter (Fall 2017)

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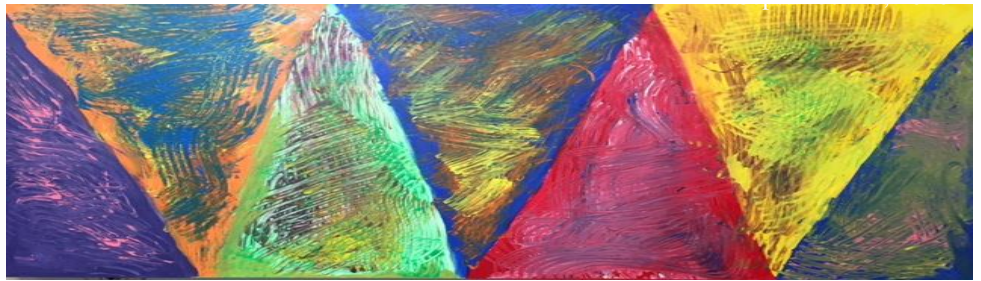


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Recommended Citation

Moore, Mary Lloyd, "CEC Newsletter (Fall 2017)" (2017). *CEC Publications*. Paper 11.
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Building A World Where All Individuals Flourish as Valued Members of the Community

Fall 2017

Welcome to the CEC!



Dear Friends,

Fall is a beautiful time of year full of new possibilities! Our students, clients, and staff continue to thrive. On August 13, our KAP Circle of Support students, arms full of boxes, settled into their dorms to begin a new academic year.

Since 2006, 36 Circle of Support participants have graduated from WKU, and four of them continued on to graduate school.

Our KAP Primetime school-aged students are in the middle of another exciting semester. The Communication Disorders Clinic is in full swing, and our youngest clients in the Renshaw Early Childhood Center are fully engaged in Big Red School.

We at the Suzanne Vitale Clinical Education Complex are delighted to focus our energy on the services and learning opportunities the CEC provides. The mission of the CEC has been to provide vital support services to the community to enhance socialization and communication, and to enrich the quality of life for individuals and families affected by ASD and Developmental Delays and Disabilities. With that mission in mind, the CEC is able to provide services for over 200 clients and families each year and provide hands-on clinical training for WKU students who are studying to be therapists and early childhood teachers. The CEC could not accomplish its mission without the

commitment of our dedicated staff and the generous support of the CEC’s donors.

Many of you have contributed time and resources to the Suzanne Vitale Clinical Education Complex, and to each of you, we are most grateful. There is a saying that states, “Children are likely to live up to what you believe in them.” At the CEC, we believe in each child’s potential and abilities. We work to bring out the best in each of them to fulfill our vision in *“Building a World Where All Individuals Flourish as Valued Members of Their Community.”*

Best regards,

Mary Lloyd Moore, Ed.D., SLP-CCC
 Executive Director, Suzanne Vitale Clinical
 Education Complex



In this Issue...

Welcome new CEC staff.....	2
Program News and Events	2
Upcoming Events	7
Donor Spotlight/To make a gift.....	7

Welcome Dr. and Mrs. Caboni!



The CEC staff and Advisory Board welcomed President and Mrs. Caboni to WKU Friday, August 4. A luncheon was provided, and

board member Dr. Frank Kersting presented the CEC Advisory Board's "After 21" vision. Dr. Kersting discussed the critical need for services for individuals on the autism spectrum after the age of 21, when most individuals age out of current services.

Dr. and Mrs. Caboni had the opportunity to speak with each CEC program director to gain a better understanding of how the CEC's vision and mission are realized within each program. After the luncheon, the Caboni's were provided a tour of the CEC facility. On behalf of the CEC, we'd like to welcome Dr. and Mrs. Caboni to WKU. We look forward to continuing the CEC's mission with them as they embark on this new chapter in their lives!



CEC Welcomes New KAP Circle of Support Assistant Program Manager



Bowling Green native Jonathan Beaty comes to us from Growing Minds Learning Center. He is the newest KAP Circle of Support Assistant Program manager. Jonathan graduated from WKU with Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Exceptional Education (K-12) and Special Education Certification in Moderate and Severe Disabilities.

Jonathan owns an antique soda bottle collection with over 300 bottles, and he and his wife have two dogs named Hoody and Jack. In his spare time, Jonathan enjoys hiking, watching movies, being with friends, and watching *Game of Thrones*.

Summer CDC Internship Is a Success

By Leigh Anne Roden

The Communication Disorders Clinic Summer Internship began June 26 and ended July 25. The CDC welcomed 45 student clinicians from across the United States. These students are in the online graduate program in speech-language pathology in the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders. Approximately 100 clients from Bowling Green/Warren County and surrounding areas received services during the four-week summer session. Several of the clients also participated in group therapy sessions offered at the Clinical Education Complex. These groups serve a variety of purposes and help to connect clients with similar needs.

Fall programming began September 5th and will end December 1st. Undergraduate Communication

Find us on Facebook!



Disorders students and Graduate Speech-Language Pathology (SLP) students provide services for nearly 100 clients. Student clinicians provide therapy in a clinical setting under the supervision of national- and state-certified SLPs.



Photo: Leigh Anne Roden

Special Needs Summit is Friday, Oct. 13

Mark your calendars for the CEC's Special Needs Summit! The event will be held Friday, October 13 at the Knickely Conference Center from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. The theme this year is "Today's Vision, Tomorrow's Reality."

The event is for parents, caregivers, family members, professionals, and students working with the special needs community. The Special Needs Summit provides opportunities to attend workshops related to special needs topics and to obtain information on special needs services and community resources. The event is also an opportunity for professionals to earn CEUs, Early Care Education Hours, EILA Credits, and First Steps Provider Choice Training Hours.

The Special Needs Summit is designed to offer encouragement and empowerment for parents,

families, professionals, and students by providing information and different strategies that build on strengths of children with special needs, as well as on the knowledge of students, parents, caregivers, and professionals. The event allows members of the special needs community to find understanding, information, and resources for services all in one place.

The keynote speaker will be motivational lecturer Mitchell Tolle, and his topic will be *"The Loftiest Dream!"*

The session speakers and topics are as follows:

- **Attorney Jeff Yussman:** Legal Planning for Protecting Government Benefits
- **Financial Advisor Todd Metcalf:** Special Needs Planning
- **Dr. Christina Noel:** Special Education Roundtable Discussion on Behavior in Schools
- **Dr. Gregory Barnes:** Understanding the Brain Better, Sleep Disorders, and Seizures
- **Dr. Sonia Young:** Early Intervention to Improve Gross Motor Developmental Delays.

The cost to attend the Special Needs Summit is \$20 for students, \$30 for parents and \$65 for professionals and includes lunch. To register for the event, click [here](#). Priority registration is until October 6th. There will be a \$5 increase for registration after the priority deadline.

If you have any questions, please contact Shannon Sales at 270-745-2419.



Special Needs Expo will be held March 24, 2018

The CEC and Family Resource Program (FRP) will host the first Barren River Area Development District (BRADD) Special Needs Expo! The event will be held Saturday, March 24, 2018 from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. at the Carol Knicely Conference Center. The Special Needs Expo is an opportunity for individuals and families with special needs in the BRADD area to experience a day of fun, excitement, and learning. The BRADD area is a 10 – county region that consists of Allen, Barren, Butler, Edmonson, Hart, Logan, Metcalfe, Monroe, Simpson, and Warren counties.

The Special Needs Expo will include emphasis in the following areas:

- Early Childhood Intervention
- Education awareness and support groups within the BRADD area for children and families with special needs.
- Sports and Recreation
- Health
- Transition resources for individuals with special needs aged 21 and over
- Advocacy and Support

The event highlights the importance of recognizing individuals with special needs and their gifts to the community. Simple events like this provide the necessary awareness, education, and encouragement for individuals and families with special needs within the community.

The Expos will include community resource information tables, food, door prizes, and live entertainment. The event will also include yoga lessons, face painting, crafts, music, art displays, massages and free haircuts for children with special needs, an appearance from Big Red, and many other fun activities for children and adults. On-site childcare will also be available at the Expo.

Contact Shannon Sales at shannon.sales@wku.edu if you have any questions about the event.

KAP Circle of Support Move-In Day



KAP and CEC staff members were on hand to provide assistance to 17 Circle of Support freshman as they moved into the residence halls on August 13th. WKU and the entire CEC staff welcome you as you begin your college career!

Welcome Back, Circle of Support Students!



Photo: Clinton Lewis

On August 20th President Caboni, John and Linda Kelly, and CEC staff welcomed new and returning Circle of Support Students. Students had the opportunity to ask questions, ensure they were prepared for the first day of class, gain support from KAP staff, and support each other as they begin the fall 2017 semester.

The KAP Circle of Support provides educational and social support to WKU students on the autism spectrum. The Circle of Support is also one of the largest programs in the nation for individuals diagnosed with ASD, with students attending WKU from eight U.S. states. The KAP Circle of Support provides mentoring and counseling services, study tables, and opportunities for socializing. The Circle of Support staff members also assist students with obtaining private dorm rooms and conduct training

on Autism Spectrum Disorders with residence hall staff members to help educate them on participants' needs. All Circle of Support participants are degree-seeking students at WKU.



Photo: Clinton Lewis

Eastern states of Washington, Oregon, Idaho, and Montana. The next total eclipse to occur in North America will occur April 8, 2024, extending from Texas to Maine. Portions of Mexico and Eastern Canada will also experience a total solar eclipse at that time.

Lisa Von Halle donated pizza and eclipse sunglasses for KAP Circle of Support students to enjoy the experience. We appreciate Mrs. Halle and her generosity!

Total Eclipse 2017 Sweeps through Bowling Green!



The southern portions of Bowling Green and Warren County were in the path of totality for the total solar eclipse on August 21, 2017. KAP Circle of Support students, along with CEC staff and faculty gathered with special-purpose filtered glasses to witness the event

and experience darkness for about one minute during the total solar eclipse.

Around 1:10 p.m., a mid-day gloaming began enveloping CEC students, faculty, and staff. At 1:15 p.m., the cicadas began singing. Moments before, the temperature was sweltering, but then suddenly dropped to tolerable digits. By 1:27 p.m., darkness had descended, and the only lights surrounding the CEC were security and street lights. As quickly as darkness descended upon Western Kentucky University, the entire process reversed. Flocks of birds flew from the trees to greet the "new" day as the earth's house lights slowly began to rise around 1:28 p.m.

The last total solar eclipse to occur in North America was 38 years ago, sweeping the North

KAP Hosts Breakfast and Scavenger Hunt

On August 17, KAP College Circle of Support students hosted a breakfast to welcome back students for the fall 2017 semester. Activities throughout the day included a scavenger hunt, games, and various team-building exercises.



KAP Prime Time Hosts Open House

The KAP *Prime Time* parents and participants attended an open house at the CEC on August 31. About 40 people attended. The open house was an orientation for parents and participants to complete paperwork, meet the KAP staff, network with other families, and become more familiar with the CEC.

The *Prime Time* is an after-school program for those diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder or other developmental/social language delays. The program consists of activities focusing on social language growth and development, group interactions, and personal skills, which are critical for individuals diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder. The curriculum focuses on tasks such as getting along with others, problem solving, friendship skills, and taking turns.

KAP Prime –Time fall programming began September 5 and ends December 1.

reported measurable progress and improvements at the end of the semester. TJ Samson is in the early planning stages of expanding and continuing the program.

Our theme for the fall semester will be “Discovering Shapes in Our Colorful World” where we will discover shapes and colors in our world. The fall semester begins on September 11th and ends on December 1st. Parent Teacher conferences will be held on November 20th and 21st.

The Renshaw Early Childhood Center is accredited through the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC). Small group learning environments comprise the RECC with a 1:3 teacher-to-child ratio. The RECC provides clinical training for future educators, therapists, and early childhood professionals. Master’s level teachers provide 100% supervision to WKU students who work in the RECC classroom.

The RECC serves toddler, preschool, and kindergarten age children in developmental play groups that meet once or twice a week. These play groups offer a unique play-based environment designed to foster independence, language and social skills, literacy skills and school readiness through play, music and movement, sensory experiences and individualized activities.



RECC Enjoys an Exciting Summer!

RECC, also known as Big Red School, had an exciting and busy summer semester exploring creepy crawly critters, their life cycles and what makes different insects unique! Over 50 children were enrolled in the summer semester in Bowling Green. The kindergarten group wrapped up the semester with an insect scavenger hunt at Lost River Cave where they searched for bugs of all kinds in the insects’ habitats. Students also visited Lost River Cave’s Butterfly Habitat.

RECC staff, with the help of TJ Samson occupational and speech therapists, led a Big Red School pilot group on Fridays during the month of July at the TJ Samson Pavilion in Glasgow, KY. Ten children who are currently on the Big Red School waiting list or who are currently receiving services from TJ Samson Pavilion therapists, participated in the pilot group. Parents and therapists

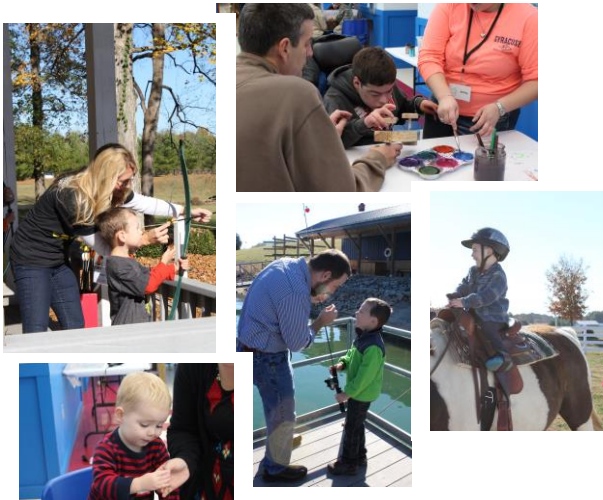
Autism Family Fun Day is November 18, 2017

The Autism Family Fun Day will be held at the Center for Courageous Kids in Scottsville, Kentucky on Saturday, November 18th from 9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m.

The event is sponsored by the CEC, the Kelly Autism Program, and the Autism Tennessee at no cost. Many activities are planned including, fishing, cooking, archery, arts and crafts, indoor swimming, bowling, woodshop, boating, and much more.

The Center for Courageous Kids is a year-round medical camp located in Scottsville, Kentucky that serves children and their families that suffer from chronic medical conditions or life-threatening illness.

RSVP for the event with the organization or call Alvin Farmer at 270-618-2900 extension 234.



Grants awarded:

WHAS Crusade for Children: \$53,950.00
United Way of Southern Kentucky, \$15,600.00

To make a gift to the CEC, click the icon below.



Upcoming Dates Events

- Special Needs Summit..... October 13
- National Down Syndrome Buddy Walk...Oct. 14
- Advisory Board Meeting..... October 25
- Autism Family Fun Day..... November 18
- CDC Programming Ends..... November 5
- Thanksgiving Holiday..... Nov. 22 — 24
- KAP Primetime Programming Ends..... Dec. 1
- RECC Programming Ends..... December 1
- Finals Week..... Dec. 4 — 8
- Winter Break..... Dec. 18 — Jan. 2
- New Year's Eve Gala.....December 31
- FRP Coffee Hour.....Feb. 2018
- Special Needs Expo..... March 24



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