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CEC Newsletter (Spring 2017)

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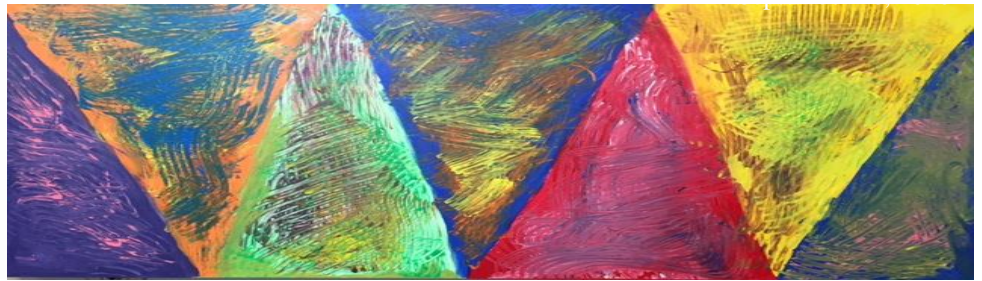
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Welcome to the CEC!

Director's Corner



Dear Friends,

Welcome to the Spring 2017 Newsletter for the Suzanne Vitale Clinical Education Complex! We invite you to take this opportunity and share in the milestones and celebrations at the CEC.

April is Autism Awareness month, and there many exciting events scheduled in and around Bowling Green.

We are excited to share this special issue, and we want this newsletter to be valuable for you so please share your feedback, questions, and suggestions. Please give us a look and share with your friends who may benefit from our newsletter information, or who may benefit from services offered at the CEC.

Thank you to everyone who supports the Suzanne Vitale Clinical Education Complex. We enjoy the opportunity to share with you the amazing things happening every day at the CEC.

Best Regards,

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

Chamber Coffee Hour October 28, 2016



The CEC was featured at the Chamber of Commerce Coffee hour October 28, 2016 at the Knicely Conference Center. The event was sponsored by Dan Renshaw and Renshaw Automotive Group of Hopkinsville, KY. The Chamber of Commerce Coffee Hour features guest speakers on a range of topics and attracts around 300 attendees. The Coffee Hour is an

opportunity for partners and guests to make new contacts, renew acquaintances, and exchange business information over breakfast. Jeff Hodges, a parent of a Kelly Autism Program Circle of Support participant, was the guest speaker for the October event. As a father to a child diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), Hodges identifies with the rewards and challenges of daily life with an ASD diagnosis. Mr. Hodges also announced his creation of the CEC Fund for Excellence. The interest generated from the CEC Fund for Excellence will be used enhance and support CEC programs and initiatives.

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CCK Hosts Autism Family Fun Day



The Center for Courageous Kids (CCK) partnered with the Clinical Education Complex and Autism Tennessee for the Autism Family Fun Day on November 12. Children with autism and

their family members and friends were invited to the camp for a day of fun that included horseback riding, indoor swimming, fishing, archery, arts and crafts, bowling, and woodshop. Over 40 families attended the event which was sponsored by Phil Plant of Above and Beyond Counseling.

The multi-million-dollar medical camp opened in 2008 on a 168-acre farm in Scottsville, Kentucky. The center is open year-round and serves children and their families who suffer from chronic medical conditions or life-threatening illnesses – regardless of ability. The CCK campus encompasses an on-site medical center with a helipad, indoor aquatic complex, equestrian riding arena, bowling alley, gymnasium, climbing wall, boating and fishing, theater, four camper lodges, and much more. Children with life-threatening illness and their families attend the camp free of charge.

For more information about the Center for Courageous Kids, email info@courageouskids.org, visit their [website](#), or call 270-618-2900.

April is National Autism Awareness Month

Are you seeing blue? That's because April is Autism Awareness Month. Many will be wearing blue April 2nd which is World Autism Awareness Day, and if you drive by the CEC at night, you'll see the facility illuminated in blue light.

The Autism Society established April as Autism Awareness month 25 years ago in an effort to not only promote awareness, but to remove barriers and promote self-determination for all. The goal is to create a society where those with ASDs are valued for their unique talents and gifts. While it's important to spread autism awareness, the needs of many families affected by autism extend beyond awareness. April is also a month for *action*.

One in 68 children is diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder, a sharp [increase](#) from the autism rate from a decade ago. The month of April is dedicated to educating people about the effects of autism and raising money for critical social programs to assist individuals and families affected by ASD to have happier, healthier, and safer lives.

For many, navigating life with autism or a family member with autism can be overwhelming. It can be a challenge to find acceptance and the critical help they require. Social programs, education, safety, and employment opportunities can be tough to acquire for many families.

What can individuals do to show support? One way is to donate time or resources to a local organization, such as the Suzanne Vitale Clinical Education Complex, that provides services to individuals and families affected with autism. Another way is to give to an organization that provides service dogs for children with autism. More information about volunteering as a autism buddy can be found [here](#). Finally, chances are someone you know may be affected by ASD. When you encounter someone who doesn't look you in the eye, smile at him –even if he doesn't smile back. Is there a child with autism in your child's class? Invite her to your child's birthday party.

Show support for Autism Awareness Month by giving to improve the lives of those diagnosed with ASD, whether it's financially or with your time. Take the time to connect with and understand those we see and interact with every day who are affected with ASD. After all, we're all in this together.



Milestones Happen Every Day at the CEC

Milestones happen every day at the CEC. If you're not familiar with the different programs provided through the CEC, we encourage you to click [here](#) or on the photo below watch the video. Perhaps you or someone you know can benefit from services offered through one of our programs.



Amy Hardin is CEC Director of Development



Amy Hardin has been named as the Director of Development for the CEC. Amy is from Paris, KY and received her BA in Communications and Political Science from WKU in 2002 and her MPA in 2010. She and her husband, Mike, live in Bowling Green with their son, JW. Amy has been fundraising professionally for close to

10 years. She is excited at the opportunity to be part of "Team CEC" as her son was diagnosed with ASD in August 2015. In addition to being an advocate for those affected by autism, Amy also enjoys eating Mexican food with friends, and can usually be seen with a Sonic Diet Coke in her hand! Fun fact about Amy- she is Dolly Parton's self-proclaimed biggest fan, and was able to meet her idol in 2016!



Training Wheels on Building Blocks

By Allison Hatcher

The WKU Communication Disorders Clinic (CDC) collaborated with the Renshaw Early Childhood Center (RECC) during the fall 2016 semester. The purpose of the collaboration was to initiate a new service delivery model for young children who attend the Early Childhood Center. The new program, "Training Wheels on Building Blocks," provides child-centered, interdisciplinary intervention for young children who may or may not be affected by autism spectrum disorders. Disciplines represented within this university-based program are speech-language pathology, nursing, occupational therapy, and interdisciplinary early childhood education.

Mrs. Hudson and Mrs. Hatcher worked with students, faculty, staff, and other allied health disciplines on treatment plans and provided support during classroom activities and teaching procedures. The program was successful in helping all the participants complete their communication objectives and is scheduled to continue for the spring 2017 semester.





CDC Creates Little Topper Time



Photo: Clint Lewis

Little Topper Time is a parent-based, small group, language intervention (LI) program designed and directed by Caroline Hudson and Allison Hatcher at the WKU Communication Disorders Clinic (CDC).

Each participant in the program developed larger vocabulary indicating there is a potential for parent-based language intervention, such as LTT, to improve language development in children through LI.

Peer modeling, parent-child bonding, and connections made between parents and parents of other children were also observed and recorded during the LTT intervention program.

Parents also anecdotally reported an increase in the amount of time they spent face-to-face with their child as well as an increase in their child's use of sign language, gestures, vocalizations and/or spoken communication.

FRP Hosts Vision Meeting

The Family Resource Program hosted a Vision Meeting on October 21, 2016. Members from the Bowling Green Police Department and various community service agencies in the Bowling Green/Warren County area met to learn more about the services provided by the CEC. The purpose of the meetings is to establish partnerships with other agencies to improve the quality and efficiency of services that are available to those in the community with special needs. The goal of all the community services is to promote the quality of life across the

lifespan and address client needs. One way this can be accomplished is to establish collaborations and partnerships within these agencies to provide greater access to needed services and resources for individuals with special needs and their families.

At the conclusion of the meeting, those in attendance were given a tour of the CEC. For more information about the Vision meetings, contact April Fulcher at April.fulcher@bgky.org. To be added to the Vision email list, contact Julia Rivas at julia.rivas@wku.edu

FRP Will Host Family Fun Day



Sometimes you just need to play! The CEC's Family Resource Program will host a Family Fun Day Friday, April 28,

2017 from 3:30 p.m. until 6:30 p.m. The event will take place at the WKU Houchens L.T. Smith Stadium, and the cost is \$10.00 per child and only \$5.00 per parent. Several vendors are expected to attend, including The Kidz Club of Bowling Green, Growing Minds Learning Center, and HIVE. This event is designed for our special needs children and their families to come out and celebrate life. The families love it and most importantly the children have a blast. This fun-filled event is the perfect ending to a busy week! Please join us at WKU Houchens L.T. Smith Stadium for an afternoon of music, face painting, food inflatables, and games for our individuals with special needs and their families. You work hard. You deserve an afternoon of food and fun! You don't want to miss this amazing event. It's going to be AWESOME! For additional questions, please feel free to contact Shannon Sales at 270-745-2149 for more information.



CEC Special Needs Summit is a Success



Photo: Clint Lewis

The Special Needs Summit was held October 14, 2016. Over 130 parents, caregivers, professionals, staff, and students along with 22 vendors participated in the annual event. The Special Needs Summit provides an opportunity 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 more than a conference. It empowers and encourages families, professionals, and students to keep moving forward. It’s a reminder that we are all in this together,” said Family Resource Director Shannon Sales.

Ryan McKenna, Assistant Program Manager for the Kelly Autism Program’s Circle of Support, moderated a panel of four students from the Circle of Support College Program.

Tyler Garrett, Clay Harville, Avery Wilcox and Andy Sommers provided insight into the world of autism and answered questions related to their diagnosis.

The KAP panel participants answered questions pertaining to their learning habits, social skills, and levels of adjustment to a university environment. The panel also offered advice to parents and caregivers regarding specific needs of children with autism.

Tyler Garrett, an Elementary Education major from Danville, Kentucky, offered this advice to parents of a child with autism: *“For me, the biggest role a parent can have for a child with autism is to listen, to try and sympathize, and to understand that they don’t think like you (the parent), and they aren’t going to think like you. When people say, ‘Why don’t you understand this? This is very simple,’ it may not be. It may be one of the most complicated things ever.”*

Clay Harville, a Special Education major from Louisville, Kentucky, added: *“Don’t yell. Don’t judge. Don’t ever criticize them because they probably don’t know any better. They (the child) can develop skills like many other people without learning differences do.”*

The next Special Needs Summit is scheduled for October 13, 2017.



Kelly Autism Program Presents Alliance Awards



The Kelly Autism Program at WKU presented the 13th Annual Alliance Awards November 15 at the Augenstein Alumni Center. The Kelly Autism Program (KAP) is part of the Suzanne Vitale Clinical Education Complex at WKU, and provides services to individuals age 7 through adulthood who are diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder.

The Alliance Awards ceremony provides an opportunity for the KAP director and staff to recognize individuals in the Bowling Green and



WKU communities who have been instrumental in the growth of the Kelly Autism Program.

KAP Director Michelle Elkins presented the Alliance Award local leaders in the business community who have participated in the KAP transition to work program. WKU Awards are also presented to faculty and WKU members who have gone above and beyond to support KAP participants. The Beacon Award recognizes groups and individuals who step up to be a guiding light for KAP participants. They provide support to continue KAP's mission which is to provide an educational, social and supportive environment. With this support, individuals who have been diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder can achieve their potential as independent, productive, and active community citizens.

The Altiora Award is presented to individuals who have contributed greatly to KAP with their time, energy, and effort. The recipients of the 2016 Altiora Award are: Dr. and Mrs. Gary Ransdell. CEC Executive Director Mary Lloyd Moore presented the Altiora Award to President Ransdell and Julie Ransdell, stating, "From the very inception of the Kelly Autism Program they both have been our ultimate champions and have offered unwavering support." We are grateful for all they've done to promote excellence and success with the Kelly Autism Program at WKU.

Thank you to everyone who made an effort to attend and who contributed in making this evening so special.

For more information about the Kelly Autism Program, visit the Clinical Education Complex website at <http://www.wku.edu/wkucec/>. If you wish to become a contributing partner with the KAP students and staff, contact the CEC at 270-745-4232.



Kelly Autism Program is Featured on Front Page of *The New York Times*

KAP was featured in a front-page, above-the-fold story in the Sunday, November 19, 2016 edition of *The New York Times*. The story, entitled "*Along the Autism Spectrum, a Path Through Campus Life,*" focuses on KAP's *Circle of Support* college program. The feature highlights KAP *Circle of Support* participants as they navigate difficulties and find support during their college careers at WKU. To read the full story, click on the photo or follow this link here: <http://bit.ly/CECKAP>



LifeSkills Run/Walk for Autism is April 22

Mark your calendars and lace up your running shoes for the 11th annual LifeSkills Walk/Run for Autism! The event will take place April 22, 2017 at 8:00 a.m. at the Bowling Green Ballpark, home of the Bowling Green Hot Rods. At the time of this writing, sponsors for the race include LifeSkills, Inc. of Bowling Green, Kiwanis of Bowling Green, Community Living in KY (CLiK), and Independence Bank. Proceeds from the event benefit the Suzanne Vitale Clinical Education Complex (CEC), a Bowling Green Community/Western Kentucky University partnership. The CEC provides services for individuals diagnosed along the autism spectrum continuum and their families, while serving as a training opportunity for future professionals in a wide variety of disciplines.



This event has something for everyone! There will be a 4 Mile Run, a 1 Mile Kid’s Run, and a 1 Mile Fun Walk. The Early Bird Registration fee is \$25.00 and ends March 31. Beginning April 1, both the Four-Mile Run and the One-Mile Fun Walk registration fee will increase to \$30.00, and everyone who registers before Friday, March 31 will receive a T-shirt. Teams of five or more people can be created and named on the EventBrite registration site. Use code TEAM5 for \$5.00 off the registration fee.

For more information and to register for the event, visit www.eventbrite.com. Support for the event can also be provided through financial sponsorship, for which the CEC will provide advertisement. Contact the CEC at 270-745-4232 for a sponsorship agreement form.

Please encourage your friends, family, and members of your organization to participate. This will be a great opportunity to meet and socialize with the CEC staff and other individuals and families while raising awareness of autism. We hope to see you there!

Click [here](#) for race schedule, map, the link to register for the event, and other race-related details.



Kelly Autism Director and CSD Assistant Professor Attend KY CEC



KAP Director Michelle Elkins and Leisa Hutchison, a WKU Communication & Disorders Clinical Assistant Professor, attended the Kentucky Council for Exceptional Children (KYCEC) annual conference in Lexington in November. Leisa is

on the Kentucky State Advisory Panel for Exceptional Children and has been on several KYCEC committees. The mission of the KYCEC is to improve educational outcomes for individuals with exceptionalities.



Renshaw Early Childhood Center Ventures into the Wild

By Ericka Orndorff



The RECC ventured "Into the Wild" during the fall semester and explored the desert, forest, grasslands and tundra habitats and the animals that live there. It was an exciting classroom "expedition!"

In the upcoming spring semester, the theme will be "Planes, Trains and Automobiles". The RECC will explore all things that

GO on land, in the air, and in the water. Some special visitors will visit Big Red School throughout the semester to share information about transportation and safety. The spring semester begins on February 13 and ends May 5.



Two pilot programs, “Tiny Tops” and “Building Blocks,” were successfully introduced during the fall semester and will continue into the spring semester. The RECC will continue to collaborate with the WKU Communications Disorders Clinic (CDC) as well as our contract Occupational Therapist (OT) Stephanie Smith to provide a multidisciplinary approach to our early intervention services.

Suzanne Vitale Clinical Education Staff List

Mary Lloyd Moore, Ed.D., CCC-SLP
Director, CEC

Mary Johnson, BA
CEC Office Coordinator

Laura Reynolds, MHA
CEC Manager

Caroline Hudson, MS, CCC-SLP
Director, Communication Disorders Clinic

Shannon Sales, MSW
Director, Family Resource Program

Peyton Collins, BIS
KAP College Program Assistant Manager

Michelle Elkins, MS, CCC-SLP
Director, Kelly Autism Program

Cassandra Hanna, CSW
Clinical Mental Health Counselor

Ryan McKenna, BA
KAP College Program Assistant Manager

Sarah McMaine-Render, MAE
KAP College Program Manager

Kim Minton, BS
KAP College Program Assistant Manager

Grant Snowden
KAP Prime Time Program Assistant Manager

Lisa Murphy, MAE
Director, Renshaw Early Childhood Center

Ericka Powell-Orndorff, MAE
ECC Program Manager

Upcoming Dates and Events

WKU Spring Break – **March 13 – March 17**

Jersey Mike’s – Proceeds support KAP – **March 31**

BG/Warren Co. Spring Break – **April 3 – 7**

Chick-fil-A Autism Screening Event – **April 18**

LifeSkills Run/Walk for Autism – **April 22**

Griff’s Autism Awareness Event **April 25**

Family Resource Program Family Fun Day – **April 28**

Final Examinations – **May 8 – 12**

FRP Coffee Hour – **May 12**

Commencement Weekend – **May 12 - 13**

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