

The Post CARD

*A Publication of the Center for Autism and Related Disabilities
at the University of Florida/ Gainesville*

Spring 2005

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Dear Families and Friends of CARD,

April is Autism Awareness Month and we are excited about all the positive activities that are happening around our region. The family groups in Marion and Hernando Counties are very active in promoting Autism Awareness Month and we are grateful for all they are accomplishing. Here in Gainesville, the University of Florida is putting Autism Awareness announcements on its electronic message boards all around campus and at the Gator baseball games. We are distributing Autism Awareness Posters and ribbons as widely and as quickly as we can. With all of the television, newspaper and magazine coverage that autism is getting this year, we have a great opportunity to let the citizens of North Central Florida know about autism in our communities and schools and about CARD and the other resources that are available for support.

In Tallahassee, our Florida Representatives and Senators are working with families from around the state to try to find additional funds for the CARD programs at all seven Centers. We are grateful for all their efforts and hopeful that additional resources will become available for us to serve the families and professionals in our region.

Please take a few minutes to look through this edition of the PostCARD. I hope you will find it interesting and informative. Besides stories about two of our constituents, there is information about summer camps and about research that is going on here in Gainesville and around the nation. Some of you will also receive, in the mail, a survey about pain research that is beginning here at the UF College of Nursing. Please contact me if you have any questions about the various research projects at the University of Florida that are studying individuals with autism and related disabilities.

Sincerely,



Spring 2005 Edition

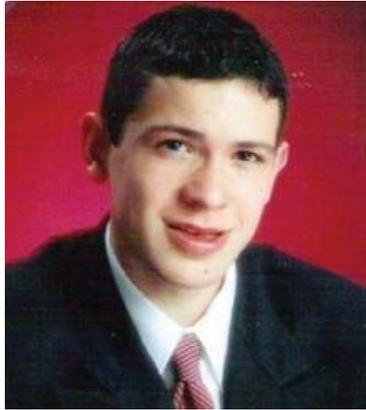
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Constituent Highlight: Earl Hill by Jennifer Flanagan

I first met Earl Hill 7 years ago, before I worked for CARD. As a graduate student who studied autism I was having my first experiences actually working with individuals with autism. Earl was one of the first who taught me much that textbooks and journal articles did not.

At that time, Earl was in middle school. A tall, lanky smiling boy, he was fascinated with the ceiling fans in the therapy office where I saw him briefly every week. In fact, it was hard to divert him away from the fan and into the therapy room. He would have stayed there forever, it seemed, had the occupational therapist not offered him something that gave him a similar sensory experience - a small portable car fan. I don't think any of us really knew for sure whether he was that much attached to the fan....or to all the female attention it brought him! That smile never left his face.

At 19, Earl still likes fans. But now he has attached some additional meaning to the objects and people in his world. He recently requested to go to his favorite pizza joint by showing his mother a photo of the fans there (and to make sure he was understood....photos of pizza and salad also). While Earl's mother, Dr. Elizabeth Hill, and a friend had 2 slightly different interpretations of one set of 9 photos Earl showed them, "The big point is he is using his pecs (picture exchange communication system) to communicate complicated ideas", she says.



This is a big step for Earl. Being able to communicate his needs and wants (and then to have them come to fruition!) must be an amazing experience for someone who has always had trouble with communication. His mother notes that the communication symbols he has now are already limited. His functional vocabulary continues to grow.

Earl receives services and support through the Home and Community Based Services Medicaid Waiver (Med Waiver). His mother is a single parent who relies on the waiver to keep Earl at home. She is an active advocate for her son at local and state levels. "These services have allowed us to remain a family. They have allowed Earl to stay at home and progress rather than become an orphan in an institution. Earl is making notable progress, and he is becoming more and more communicative and functional. He's maturing into a dignified and sweet natured man."

And Earl's mother is not the only one who thinks so. At my own wedding 2 years ago, a teenage girl I know well came up to me and exclaimed, "Who is that cute guy over at that table!?" It never occurred to her that this "cute guy" also had autism and cerebral palsy, didn't communicate verbally, preferred things to stay the same and had some quirky mannerisms. But the best part was that the diagnoses didn't matter, he was still a "cute guy."

Caity Goes to Washington

Hi Greg: We got back Sunday night. You wouldn't believe how extremely well Caity did. She had no problems at all, she was calmer than I was, knew where the flight gates were (when I couldn't remember), found our luggage, (I tied pink ribbons for visuals on them), knew the boarding passes were in my back pocket when I had two security people searching for them, went through all the security with no problems, rode the metro, loved the plane, she read a book on JFK the whole time. She experienced her first snowstorm and loved it, the crowd was enormous at one point and we had to hold onto each others' hoods so we wouldn't get crushed or lost and she was wonderful. She heard the twenty-one gun (LOUD) salute and sat at the congresswoman's desk for pictures while pretending to sign a document. She also got crumbs all over the floor and called her "Congresswoman Ginny". She was so well behaved and polite and I am so proud of her, I have tons of pictures.



Caity Bryant is shown here with Congresswoman Ginny Brown-Waite. Caity and four other children were awarded tickets to the 55th Presidential Inauguration for their winning essays submitted to a contest held by the congresswoman.

Caity's mother, Marianne, recounts tales from their trip in this email to our Director, Greg Valcante.

Oh, I forgot, we had bleacher seats for the parade and we were right across from the protestors and it dawned on her that they did not like the president. I tried to explain democracy, but she just got mad. She was sort of shocked by all of this and at the top of her lungs yelled back "if you don't like George Bush go home". The riot police were there, hundreds of them, but the people in the stands where we were cheered for her. It was pretty neat. She saw Laura Bush and Lynn Cheney and Barbara Bush and Bill and Hillary and of course the President and Vice President and thinks they were all personally waving at her. It was a wonderful experience and I am so proud of Caity and how well she handled all of it. I doubt you would have ever known she is an autistic child. I am still amazed. I gave the information you sent me along with a CARD brochure to our congresswoman. I know she was quite impressed with Caity and she knows how much CARD has helped. Hope we helped the cause in some way!!!!!! Marianne and Caity

Summer Camp Information

compiled by Ann Marie Orlando

Florida Camps

Boggy Creek Gang- Lake County, (352) 483-4200, www.boggycreek.org, for children with chronic, life-threatening illness

CAMP CARE- St. Johns County, (904) 356-0810, Fax (904) 356-7302, campias@hotmail.com, child and adult sessions, sponsored by Autism Society of Florida and Diocese of St. Augustine

Camp Cedarkirk- Hillsborough County, cedarkirk@juno.com, Christian camp nestled in trees with the Acafia River running through it

Camp Challenge- Lake County, (352) 383-4711, <http://lakeinfor.com/campc> Fully accredited by the American Camping Association, Easter Seals Camp Challenge in Sorrento, near Orlando, offers camping programs for children and adults with disabilities.

Camp Endeavor- Polk County, (407) 320-3331, campdirector@msn.com, provides an education program for deaf and hard of hearing youth that promotes social/personal growth, environment awareness, independence and citizenship

Camp St. John- St. John County, (904)356-0810, for children living with Down Syndrome, Cerebral Palsy, Spina Bifida, Autism, Epilepsy, Multi-Sensory Disorders and other challenges so that they may enjoy a fun-filled week of camping during the summer months

Camp Thunderbird- Seminole County, (407)889-4530Wekiva Springs State Park, developmentally disabled individuals from age 8 to 80 enjoy a number of exciting activities

Dream Oaks Camp- Manatee County, (407) 889-8088, www.questinc.org/camp.htm, children with chronic illness, mental and physical challenges, and "at-risk", 7-18 years

Eckerd Youth Camp- 5 Locations throughout FL, 800-914-3937, year-round therapeutic treatment programs for youth ages 10-17 experiencing behavioral, academic, substance abuse, ADHD and oppositional behavior

Florida Diabetes Camp- Volusia County, DeLeon Springs, (352) 334-1323, www.floridadiabetescamp.org, children with diabetes

Florida Lions Camp- Polk County, (863) 696-1948, www.lionscampfl.org, children with vision, physical, developmental disabilities

Florida Sheriff's Youth Camp- Volusia County, (907)49-9999, camp's purpose is to provide a wholesome atmosphere and positive camping opportunity for troubled and underprivileged youth

Florida School for the Deaf & Blind (FSDB) Summer Programs- St. Johns County, (904) 827-2383, www.fsdb.k12.fl.us

Camps Outside of Florida

Children's Camp by Amputees Coming Together (ACT)- Bryson City, NC, (540) 545-7238, children with limb loss, free

Camp Timberwolf- Hendersonville, NC, (828) 697-9379, www.camp timberwolf.com, individuals with ADD, ADHD, learning disabilities, OCD, behavioral challenges, ages 6 - 20

Mission St. Joseph- Asheville, NC, (800) 377-9251, ext. 31763, (828) 213-1763, www.msj.org/camps.html, children with diabetes, asthma, cancer, blood disorders

SUWS of the Carolinas - (888) 828-9770, www.suwscarolinas.com, therapeutic camping program for children who are misdirected or at-risk, ages 14-17

Talisman Summer Camp- Black Mountain, NC, (828) 669-8639, www.talismansummercamp.com, individuals with ADD, ADHD, learning disabilities, high functioning autism and Asperger's Syndrome, ages 9 - 17

Gainesville Camps

YMCA- 5201NW 34th Street, (352)374-0962, 7am – 6pm, ages 5 – 14, June 3 – August 16, \$110.00/week

Extended Day Program- Various Schools, www.sbac.edu, (352)955-7300, 7:30am-5:30pm, PreK – 5th, June 7 – July 9 \$83.00/week

College for Kids- SFCC, www.mysfcc.com, (352)395-5193, 7:55am – 12:10pm and 12:20pm – 5:00pm, 5TH – 8TH grades, 7/12 – 7/23 and/or 7/26-8/6, \$96 – half day or \$192 – whole days

Gainesville Association for Creative Arts- Various locations, 352-284-2495, hours and cost varies with each session, ages 4-18, June 7 – July 1

Hippodrome Summer Program- 25 SE 2nd Place, (352)373-5848, 9:00am-4:30pm, ages 7-17, June 7- July 2 or July 12- August 6, \$550.00/month

Camp McConnell- 210 SE 134 Avenue, Micanopy, (800)232-YMCA, 7:30am – 5:00pm, ages 7-15, June 7-August 13, \$130.00/week

O2B Kids- 6680 W. Newberry Road, (352)332-5500, 7:30am – 5:00pm, grades K-7, June 3 – August 16, cost varies

Sun Country Gym- 4010 NW 27th Lane, Gainesville, (352)378-8711, www.suncountrygymnastic.com, 7:30am – 6:00pm, ages 3-15, June 3 – August 16, \$169.00/week

Camp Crystal- Starke, (352)475-1414, www.campcrystal.com, grades 2-9, June 7– August 13

City of Gainesville Summer Camp- various locations in Alachua County, (352)334-5067, www.cityofgainesville.org, 8:30am–5:30pm, ages 5-14, June 7 – August 6, \$60.00/3-weeks, scholarships available

Autism Research

STAART Centers and CPEA's Aim to Understand Autism

by Caitlin Beck, Center Coordinator for the UCLA Center for Autism Research and Treatment

A great deal of research in the area of developmental disabilities begins with parents. In 1997 after much lobbying, a national conference was called to discuss the "state of sciences" in autism. The goal of the conference was to develop scientific objectives for future research and acknowledge what is not yet known about autism. Out of the conference four institutes housed at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) sought to begin an interdisciplinary approach to autism research. The first initiative was called the Collaborative Programs for Excellence in Autism (CPEA's). Five years later a second initiative called Studies to Advance Autism Research and Treatment (STAART) began.

Collaborative Programs for Excellence in Autism (CPEA's)

In the late 1990's governmental agencies, medical researchers and family-focused organizations worked together to identify ten Collaborative Programs for Excellence in Autism throughout the country. Each center focuses on research about autism and the CPEA website, <http://www.nichd.nih.gov/about/cdbpm/mrdd/autism/cpea.cfm>, provides a greater description of the research at each center. The CPEA's are:

UCLA Neuropsychiatric Institute, Los Angeles, CA

- Drs. Marian Sigman, Connie Kasari, Susan Bookheimer & Carolyn Schanen (now located at Nemours Biomedical Research Institute & Alfred I. duPont Hospital for Children in Delaware) were awarded this distinction. Drs. Sigman and Kasari study psychological development, Dr. Bookheimer studies brain function and Dr. Schanen is a geneticist. To contact the CPEA at UCLA email us at info@autism.ucla.edu or visit our website: www.autism.ucla.edu.

The University of Texas Health Science Center, Houston, TX

- Contact: Dr. Katherine Loveland,
katherine.a.loveland@uth.tmc.edu

University of Colorado Health Sciences Center, Denver, CO and
The MIND Institute at UC Davis, Sacramento, CA

- Contact: Dr. Sally Rogers, sally.rogers@ucdmc.ucdavis.edu

University of Rochester, Rochester, NY

- Contact: Dr. Patricia Rodier, PatriciaRodier@urmc.rochester.edu

Boston University School of Medicine, Boston, MA

- Contact: Dr. Helen Tager-Flusberg, htagerf@bu.edu

University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA

Contact: Dr. Nancy Minshew at autismproject@msx.upmc.edu
<http://www.pitt.edu/~nminshew/>

University of California, Irvine Medical School, Irvine, CA

- Contact: Dr. Anne Spence at 714-456-8385

Yale University, New Haven, CT

- Contact: Dr. Fred Volkmar, <http://info.med.yale.edu/chldstdy/autism/contact.html>

University of Washington, Seattle, WA

- Contact: Dr. Geri Dawson, <http://depts.washington.edu/uwautism/index.html>

University of Utah, Salt Lake City, UT

- Contact: Dr. William McMahon, at: 801-585-9098

Studies to Advance Autism Research and Treatment (STAART Centers)

The initiative creating the STAART Centers was funded by Congress as a result of intense lobbying by parents of children diagnosed with autism who sought a program that would not only support basic research but would also emphasize treatment research. Eight STAART centers around the country have been funded. Information about the STAART Centers is at <http://www.nimh.nih.gov/events/prautismcenters.cfm>.

Five of the eight STAART centers are located at the same sites as the CPEA's. They are Yale University, University of Washington, Boston University, University of Rochester and UCLA. They may be reached by contacting the persons noted above. The three other STAART centers' location and contact information is:

University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, Chapel Hill, NC

- Contact: Kathy Ellis, Kathy_Ellis@unc.edu

Kennedy Krieger Institute, Baltimore, MD

- Contact: Gretchen Schuman, gshuman@bu.edu

Mount Sinai Medical School, New York, NY

- Contact: Kate Esposito,
katherine.esposito@mssm.edu

One lesson already learned from both the CPEA's and the STAART Centers is that the support of active families and community organizations is key to unlocking autism. The only way to obtain answers to the questions about autism is to encourage families to participate and support excellent research that might lead us to answers about the biological bases of autism and treatments that work.

In keeping with this lesson the STAART Center at UCLA, called the UCLA CART, hopes to achieve community outreach and education goals in addition to the research and treatment focus. UCLA's Center for Autism Research and Treatment brought existing UCLA autism experts together to work collaboratively. Dr. BJ Freeman and her evaluation team, Drs. Sarah Spence and Pegeen Cronin, joined up with CPEA investigators plus Drs. Dan Geschwind, Jim McCracken and Fred Frankel to conduct research studies in early identification, genetics, pharmacotherapy and social development. In addition, through the help of the UCLA CART Community Advisory Committee, we intend to cultivate an extensive network of service providers in the greater Los Angeles.

For more information on participating in studies being conducted at the centers located near you, contact the listed centers. For information about the UCLA's studies or to learn more about the UCLA CART please visit our website: www.autism.ucla.edu or contact Caitlin Beck at cabeck@ucla.edu.

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Sibshop Update by Kathy Robinson

Sibshops are a time when siblings of children with special needs have a chance to meet and get to know other kids who are in similar situations. This is a time and place to share experiences and gain peer support. Participants share their feelings and have discussions. They have the opportunity to participate in new and exciting activities like rock climbing, horseback riding, hiking, fishing or whatever else we can plan for them to do. This time together builds camaraderie, confidence and support.

Sibshops are planned and organized by CARD staff. Different age groups are invited on a rotating basis. This past January a group of 8 - 12 year olds met at Sun Country Gymnastics and they all had a great time. Details for our next Sibshop will be available soon. Our next group will be for our four to eight-year olds. We'll keep you informed as more information becomes available. Questions? Contact Kathy Robinson at (352) 392-4171.

Teaching Endorsement in Severe Disabilities

Courses toward a State Endorsement in Severe Disabilities will be offered this summer in a joint program between UF, FSU, and USF (and possibly other campuses). Distance education courses will be available for teachers interested in information in severe disabilities.

Courses Available Summer 2005

Transition and Career Planning for Students with Severe Disabilities

Tuesday and Thursday nights from 5:10-8:10 the weeks of May 9 through May 13

Assessment, Curriculum, and Instruction for Students with Severe Disabilities

Monday and Wednesday nights from 5:10-8:10 the weeks of June 20 through July 25

Development and Assessment of Students with Severe Disabilities

Tuesday and Thursday nights from 5:10-8:10 the weeks of June 27 through August 1

Each course is 3 credit hours and includes an additional one-hour field experience. The courses will be offered at both UF and FSU campuses (and possibly other campuses) and will include both web-based instruction and interactive sessions using the Internet.

Financial assistance is available for a limited number of participants, with preference for those seeking endorsement in severe disabilities. If you would like to be considered for financial assistance, please specify when registering at your university.

For more information, please contact Dr. Diane Ryndak (dryndak@coe.ufl.edu) at UF or Bruce Menchetti (bmenchet@garnet.acns.fsu.edu) at FSU.

Research Participation Opportunity

Hi CARD Families,

My name is Cara Kimberg and I am a first year Clinical and Health Psychology Graduate Student at the University of Florida College of Public Health and Health Professions. I am studying the attentional abilities of children with Autism for my master's thesis and would welcome participants from the CARD of Gainesville. The study requires the commitment of 2 visits, each lasting approximately 2 hours. Visit 1 is a screening visit and your child will be administered an IQ test and an academic achievement test. During this time you will be asked to complete some questionnaires. At Visit 2 your child will be administered a battery of attentional measures. Within four weeks of Visit 2 you will receive a feedback letter in the mail, summarizing the results of the tasks and questionnaires that both you and your child completed. The study tests and feedback letter are provided at no cost to you. If you are interested in having your child participate in this study or want more information, please call me at (352)-273-5281.

Thanks,
Cara Kimberg

CARD UF/Gainesville Training Information

April 5, 2005 6:00-8:30

Communication Make & Take

CARD Office, 806A NW 16th Avenue, Gainesville
(*See Description Below)

April 12, 2005 7:00-8:30

Psychological Evaluation Process

CARD Office, 806A NW 16th Avenue, Gainesville
Presenter: *Pat McLaughlin, M.Ed., BCBA, School Psychologist, Putnam County Schools*
This workshop will demystify the process of psychological evaluations for students with ASD. The presenter will acquaint families and professionals with best practices for evaluating students with ASD. Recommended tests and assessment instruments will be presented and suggestions for making sure testing results are as accurate as possible will be discussed.

April 14, 2005

Getting a Life After School: Effective Transition Planning

(See flier on opposite side of this page)

April 19, 2005 6:00-8:30

Communication Make & Take

Columbia County Schools, Administrative Complex, Bldg #2 (Central Bldg), Room 153, HWY 90, Lake City
(*See Description Below)

April 26, 2005 6:30-8:30

SURVIVAL SKILLS SERIES

Topic 4: There is a reason that I am acting this way. Understanding and preventing challenging behaviors.

Moseley Elementary School Library, 1001 Husson Avenue, Palatka

April 27, 2005 6:30-8:30

SURVIVAL SKILLS SERIES

Topic 4: There is a reason that I am acting this way. Understanding and preventing challenging behaviors.

CFCC Levy County Center, Community Room, 114 Rodgers Blvd., Chiefland

May 3, 2005 6:00-8:30

Communication Make & Take

CARD Office, 806A NW 16th Avenue, Gainesville
(*See Description Below)

May 10, 2005 7:00-8:30

What if Pictures Don't Work?: Object Calendar and Communication Systems

CARD Office, 806A NW 16th Avenue, Gainesville
Presenter: *Julie Durando, M.Ed., Technical Assistance Specialist, Florida Outreach Project*
Ms. Durando, an itinerant vision teacher in Volusia County and a Technical Assistance Specialist for the Florida Outreach Project for Children and Young Adults who are Deaf-Blind will present on the use of object calendar systems and communication systems for individuals who have not learned how to use pictures, who cannot see well enough to use pictures, or who do not process visual information well yet. This session will describe how to use objects and pieces of objects to use for schedules, choices, and more advanced communication systems.

May 17, 2005 6:00-8:30

Communication Make & Take

The New Phoenix Center, 2019 NE 35th Street, Ocala
(*See Description Below)

May 17, 2005 6:30-8:30

SURVIVAL SKILLS SERIES

Topic 5: Squeeze me, spin me, swing me! Meeting your child's sensory needs.

Moseley Elementary School Library, 1001 Husson Avenue, Palatka

May 19, 2005 6:30-8:30

SURVIVAL SKILLS SERIES

Topic 5: Squeeze me, spin me, swing me! Meeting your child's sensory needs.

CFCC Levy County Center, Community Room, 114 Rodgers Blvd., Chiefland

June 7, 2005 6:00-8:30

Communication Make & Take

CARD Office, 806A NW 16th Avenue, Gainesville
(*See Description Below)

June 21, 2005 5:30-8:30

Communication Make & Take

Central High School Technology Lab, 14075 Ken Austin Pkwy, Brooksville
(*See Description Below)

June 27 - July 1, 2005

Literacy in Augmentative Communication

University of Florida Campus, Gainesville
(Details & registration now available at www.card.ufl.edu)
Course Objectives:

1. To introduce theoretical models and processes of literacy and their relationship to individuals who use AAC.
2. To describe a range of assessment and intervention strategies and their application to individuals who use AAC.
3. To familiarize students with a range of technologies, and a variety of materials and classroom modifications, that support literacy learning and use by AAC users.
4. To share a range of resources and strategies for continuing self-education as well as parent and professional support.

***DESCRIPTION: Communication Make & Take**

Learn how to make and use: Picture Schedules, People Locators, Choice Boards
At these workshops you will have access to computers with appropriate software, laminating materials, Velcro, magnets, etc. CARD staff will be available to answer your questions and guide you as you create the visual supports that will be most helpful to you and your family. All materials will be FREE. The only things that you will need to provide are photographs of family members or favorite toys.

Please see our website - www.card.ufl.edu - for complete details on the trainings listed above. These trainings are FREE of charge, but you must REGISTER by calling or emailing Leannis Maxwell so that we can plan appropriately. We will only be able to notify those who register in advance of any changes or cancellations. Leannis Maxwell can be reached by phone at 1-800-754-5891 or 352-846-3455 or by e-mail at maxwell@mbi.ufl.edu. If you would like to receive training updates by email please provide Leannis with your email address.

Trainings will be cancelled if we fewer than 5 people register.



AND

Florida Department of Education

Center for Autism and Related Disabilities

are excited to announce a regional workshop for teachers

Getting a Life After School: Effective Transition Planning for Students with Autism and Related Disabilities

Presenter: William R. Sharpton, Ph.D., Professor: Department of Special Education and Habilitative Services, University of New Orleans.

Date: April 14, 2005

Time: 8:30 am- 3:30 pm (Registration begins at 8:00 am)

Location: Sweetwater Branch Inn, 625 E. University Ave., Gainesville, FL 32601
In the McKenzie Reception Hall

Dr. Sharpton's education and experience are in the education of students with significant disabilities including autism. He has authored, administered, and worked on several federally-funded projects in the areas of personnel preparation, inclusive education, and transition from school to adult life. This workshop will describe:

- Effective transition practices
- Changes to the IDEA requirements for transition services
- Current information about outcomes for students with significant disabilities
- How to identify and plan for positive transition outcomes
- Understanding the roles of and connecting with adult service agencies
- What teachers and parents should do next

DIRECTIONS

FROM I-75: Exit I-75 at Williston Rd (southern-most Gainesville exit). Go left and stay on Williston Rd (SR 121) past US 441 intersection. After US 441 keep right as Williston Rd becomes Waldo Rd. Continue on Waldo road to the light on E. University Ave. Go left on University Ave. Go through the light at 7th Ave. and turn right into the Kirby Smith Administration Building for the School Board of Alachua County. Park in the grass parking lot. The Sweetwater Branch Inn is across the street.
Contact Person: Leannis Maxwell- 352-846-3455

Getting a Life After School: Effective Transition Planning for Students with Autism and Related Disabilities Registration Form

Name: _____ **Position:** _____

School: _____ **Are you ESE? Yes No Out of field? Yes No**

School Address: _____

School Telephone: _____ **Fax:** _____

Home Mailing Address: _____

Home Phone: _____ **Fax:** _____

Email Address: _____

*All confirmations will be sent via email

Please send this registration form to Leannis Maxwell by April 12, 2005. Spaces limited:

✓Fax: 352-846-3703

✓Email: Maxwell@mbi.ufl.edu

✓Snail Mail: UF CARD, 806A NW 16th Ave., Gainesville, FL 32601

Awareness Days at the Capital

Autism Awareness Day

April 5, 2005 9am - 3pm
Capital Courtyard

Autism Awareness Day will be celebrated in conjunction with Children's Week at the Capital. For more information on events that day or to help out, please contact Ashley Ocampo at aocampo@fsu.edu or (850) 644-4367.

Developmental Disabilities Awareness Day

April 7, 2005 9:30am-2:30pm
Florida Capital

The Florida Developmental Disabilities Council (FDDC) will commemorate this year's Developmental Disabilities Awareness Day by launching an ambitious public awareness campaign stressing the importance of including individuals with disabilities in Florida's educational system, business environment and local communities. If you have any questions about Developmental Disabilities Awareness Day, download the flyer at <http://www.fddc.org/home/announcements/DDDay2005.pdf> or contact Margaret Determann or Amelia Valencic toll-free at 800-580-7810.

CARD UF/Gainesville Office Hours

The CARD office is 'closed' until 12pm on Mondays for staff meetings.

If you want to come by and make visual supports and need help from our staff, please call Leannis Maxwell: 846-3455 to make an appointment.

If you don't need help from our staff and just want to use our computers, they are available to use during normal business hours Tuesday-Friday and after 12 noon on Mondays.

Autism Awareness in Hernando County

Healthy Kids Day at the YMCA

April 2, 2005, 9am - 12pm

UF CARD will be there with a table of information on ASD. Margie Garlin, UF CARD's Hernando County Parent Partner, will be there to answer any questions.

Aerobathon at the Hernando County YMCA

April 23, 2005, 8:30am - 11:30am

Come exercise and raise awareness for autism

Also Margie Garlin and Heidi Jennison will have an information table set up every Thursday morning for month of April. The Hernando County YMCA is located at 1300 Mariner Blvd in Spring Hill. For more information on the YMCA events please call Margie Garlin at 686-1725 or Heidi Jennison at 683-5534

Local Show Highlights Autism

The Bill Newell Show which airs on Cable Channel 14 on Wednesday at 4:00 & 9:00 PM, Friday and Saturday 8:00 AM, 5:00 & 9:00 PM, and Sunday 8:00 AM and 5:00 PM will be devoted to Autism Awareness in the beginning of April.

Assistive Technology Night

April, 20, 2005, 6pm - 8:30pm
Central High School, Brooksville

6:00-6:15 CHS Lab Open House

6:15-7:30 Assistive Technology: Tools for Increasing, Maintaining or Improving Functional Capabilities

7:30-8:30 Visual Supports SHOW & TELL with CARD

For Registration contact: Leslie Bolen at 683-0209,

HernandoAustim@aol.com or

Hernando County ESE at 797-7022, ext 217

H.A.P.P.E.N. Golf Tournament

April 29, 2005

H.A.P.P.E.N. (Hernando Autism Parent and Personal Experience Network) will hold a golf tournament fundraiser at Hernando Oaks Golf & Country Club For more information please call or email Leslie Bolen at 683-0209, HernandoAutism@aol.com.

The Post CARD

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Go to

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for information about:

- *current news about autism and related disabilities
- *support groups
- *trainings
- and more!