



The Insider

Life Span Institute at Parsons

April 2012

<http://www.parsons.lsi.ku.edu>

Patty Black Moore, Editor

SRS Deputy Secretary Gary Haulmark Visits Parsons

SRS Deputy Secretary Gary Haulmark visited the Parsons State Hospital & Training Center (PSH&TC) and the Life Span Institute (LSI) at Parsons on March 30.

Jerry Rea, Ph.D., Superintendent, PSH&TC, made introductions and talked budget. The tour continued with a visit to the Special Purpose School and two of the residence cottages.

Allotted one of the three scheduled tour hours, David Lindeman, Ph.D., Director, LSI at Parsons, made introductions, provided an overview of the Parsons group's work, activities and accomplishments. The overview involved highlights of a number of projects indicating the breathe of research, training and service conducted from the Parsons LSI. Also noted is the return on investment by the Center. **For every \$1 invested in the Parsons Program by the University there is a \$5.68 return on that investment in grants and contracts.** Finally, it was reported that faculty at Parsons have working relationships with 13 other Universities.

Next on the program, Sara Sack, Ph.D., Director, Assistive Technology for Kansans (ATK), told the deputy secretary that the goal of ATK is to solve problems and increase independence, employment, education and community living through access to technology. The statewide program serves over 2,000



Kansans annually in all 105 counties. Twenty-eight, well qualified staff are located at five AT access sites (Parsons, Topeka, Wichita, Salina and Oakley and one affiliated site (Garden City). Dr. Sack focused her discussion around the program's Core Services (FY 2010-2011):

- 382 in-depth/complex **demonstrations** were completed and results typified by a

In the picture from left: David Lindeman, Director, Life Span Institute at Parsons and SRS Deputy Secretary Gary Haulmark listen as Sara Sack, Director, Assistive Technology for Kansans explains the statewide assistive technology program.

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JUST THE STATS

In the past 5 years, the Life Span Institute at Parsons faculty and staff provided direct services, training or technical assistance (TA) to more than 67,600 people in over 450 communities in all 105 counties in Kansas.

PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT



The KITS Early Childhood Resource Center (ECRC)

is a statewide, lending library of materials that support best practices in early childhood special education, a service of the Kansas Inservice Training System (KITS).

Kim Page, ECRC Coordinator, is a one-woman shop managing the details, filling requests, shipping resources, providing outreach activities, as well as making acquisitions.

Each potential addition to the Resource Center is put through a rigorous test with Kim considering criteria such as,

- the material must be peer-reviewed,
- the author established and respected in the field,
- the material must make reference to research-based information and
- the material must support the goals of the Kansas State Department of Education (KSDE) and the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE).

Materials that meet the “test” comprise the substantial holdings of print, video and audio resources providing professionals working with young children with disabilities access to appropriate and diverse evaluation and



In the picture, Kim Page (left), ECRC Coordinator, shows available resources to Sharla Hopper, PSH Child Care Center Director.

assessment instruments, curricular materials, professional materials and staff development materials.

These high standards are the underpinnings of the ECRC and designed to provide access to a collection of materials that is continuously updated on topics specifically relevant to children from birth to eight years old who are identified to have special needs. The ECRC furthers the KITS mission “to provide training and technical assistance resources and support for professionals in the field of early intervention and early childhood special education for the state of Kansas.”

Sharla Hopper, Director, Parsons State Hospital Child Care Center, began implementing evidence-based practices eight years ago and utilizes ECRC materials to support staff training. She says, "The resource center is an integral part of our program. It allows us to borrow resources for professional development that we typically can't afford in the childcare setting."

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Not only is the ECRC a lending library, but KITS team members occasionally travel to share examples of resources that are pertinent to the work professionals are doing in the state of Kansas. In April, some KITS staff will be attending the Kansas Association of Infant & Early Childhood Mental Health (KAIMH) conference in Hutchinson with resources that support services to infants and toddlers with disabilities and their families.

During a recent visit to tour the ECRC and meet Kim, Library Consultant Kim Uden Rutter, Southeast Kansas Library System, said, “I was impressed at the wide variety of resource material available at the Early Childhood Resource Center. Kim's open attitude towards use of the materials by members of the public was terrific. It would be wonderful if the availability of such a rich resource were more widely known, because, many people would benefit, I'm sure”.

The great thing is that when asked, “Who may borrow materials?” Kim's answer is ready, “Any person who works with young children from birth to eight years of age and their families may

borrow materials, including you!” So if you or someone you know needs access to quality materials for only the promise to pay the return postage, check out the KITS Early Childhood Resource Center at

<http://opac.libraryworld.com/opac/home>.

Other services are available including:

- Document searches on topics related to early childhood and serving children with special needs
- Informational list services for Kansas Preschool Programs and Infant Toddler Networks www.kskits.org/lisltserv/
- Collaborative Training Calendar www.kskits.org/training/
- Spotlight on innovative practices – KITS eUpdate www.kskits.org/listserv/

ECRC is funded by the Kansas State Department of Education (KSDE) and the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE).

NEW PUBLICATIONS

Hayashi, Y., & Wirth, O. (2012). Disruptive effects of prefeeding and haloperidol administration on multiple measures of food-maintained behavior in rats. *Behavioural Processes*, 89, 314-318.

Nelson, C., & Lindeman, D.P. (In press). Building young children's language through interactive storybook reading. *Kansas Child*.

PRESENTATIONS

Brobst, D., Lanier, B., Custer, T., Hipp, C., & Goosen, M. (2012, February). *Developing an early childhood curriculum that works for you: A work in progress*. Presentation at the 30th Annual Kansas Division of Early Childhood Conference, Wichita, KS.

Edelman, L. (2012, February). *The nuts and bolts of getting started using digital video*. Presentation at the 30th Annual Kansas Division for Early Childhood Conference, Wichita, KS.

Edelman, L. (2012, February). *Using digital video to transform early intervention and early care and education*. Presentation at the 30th Annual Kansas Division for Early Childhood Conference, Wichita, KS.

Edelman, L. (2012, February). *Using technology to build relationships*. Presentation at the 30th Annual Kansas Division for Early Childhood Conference, Wichita, KS.

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PRESENTATIONS continued from page 3

- Etter, R., & Jones, C. (2012, February). *Strategies and resources for moving young switch users beyond cause and effect*. Presentation at the Evidence-Based Practice: Real Life Applications – 2012, 30th Annual KDEC Conference, Wichita, KS.
- Goosen, M. (2012, February). *Completing the continuum: Integrating preschool programs into the multi-tiered system of supports (MTSS)*. Presentation at the 30th Annual Kansas Division of Early Childhood Conference, Wichita, KS.
- Heintz, C. (2012, February). *Early numeracy and math*. Inservice for USD 382, Pratt, KS.
- Heintz, C. (2012, February). *Successful transitions: Providing support during times of change*. Presentation to Sedgwick County Early Childhood Coordinating Council, Wichita, KS.
- Kyzar, K., Miksch, P., & Lindeman, D. (2012, February). *Early years: Best practices in early intervention (Part 1)*. Presentation at the 30th Annual Kansas Division for Early Childhood Conference, Wichita, KS.
- Kyzar, K., Miksch, P., & Lindeman, D. (2012, February). *Early years: Best practices in early intervention (Part 2)*. Presentation at the 30th Annual Kansas Division for Early Childhood Conference, Wichita, KS.
- McVey, D., Davis, C., Davis, K., Sipe, S., & Goosen, M. (2012, January). *Evaluation and eligibility*. Presentation at the TASN Evaluation and Eligibility Workshop, Topeka, KS.
- Nelson, C. (2012, January). *Collecting assessment information to support program planning*. Inservice for the McPherson County Special Education Cooperative, McPherson, KS.
- Nelson, C. (2012, January). *Incorporating early childhood outcomes into the development of IEPs for young children*. Inservice for the Hutchinson Early Education Center, Hutchinson, KS.
- Nelson, C. (2012, February). *Evaluation, eligibility and the AEPS*. Inservice for USD 261, Haysville, KS.
- Nelson, C., & Heintz, C. (2012, February). *Building language, literacy, and numeracy into the preschool day*. Presentation at the 30th Annual Kansas Division for Early Childhood Conference, Wichita, KS.
- Nelson, C., Rinkle, P., Heintz, C., & Smith, T. (2012, February). *Understanding and using early childhood outcomes data for program improvement*. Paper presented at the 30th Annual Kansas Division of Early Childhood Conference, Wichita, KS.
- Rinkel, P. (2012, January). *Pivotal response training*. Inservice presentation for USD 250, Pittsburg, KS.
- Rinkel, P. (2012, February). *Becoming an evidence-based practitioner in early intervention/early childhood special education*. Presentation at the 30th Annual Kansas Division for Early Childhood Conference, Wichita, KS.
- Rinkel, P., Lindeman, D., & Miksch, P. (2012, January). *What's new? Kansas child outcomes training and TA materials*. Encore Presentations from 2011 Measuring and Improving Child and Family Outcomes Conference, New Orleans, LA, NECTAC Webinar.
- Rinkel, P., Miksch, P., Smith, T., & Walters, S. (2012, February). *Round table discussions: Authentic assessment (305); Transition (0-5); Coaching (0-3)*. Round table presentations at the 30th Annual Kansas Division of Early Childhood Conference, Wichita, KS.
- Stremel Thomas, K. (2012, March). *Prelinguistic communication development for preschool children with multiple disabilities*. Presented to Maize and surrounding preschool programs, Maize, KS.
- Walters, S., & Miksch, P. (2012, February). *Overview and discussion of 2011 Part C regulations: Information, implementation and implications (Part 1)*. Presentation at the 30th Annual Kansas Division of Early Childhood Conference, Wichita, KS.
- Walters, S., & Miksch, P. (2012, February). *Overview and discussion of 2011 Part C regulations: Information, implementation and implications (Part 2)*. Presentation at the 30th Annual Kansas Division of Early Childhood Conference, Wichita, KS.

STAFF NEWS

- **RENEE' PATRICK, Ph.D.** reports that her School Readiness Project received new funding for analysis on the web-based preschool assessment tool for the Kansas State Department of Education.
- **SARA SACK, Ph.D.** is invited to speak to the Council of State Administrators of Vocational Rehabilitation (CSAVR) conference in April in Washington, D.C.
- **SARA SACK, Ph.D.** will discuss the successes and lessons learned from the development of the nationally recognized Kansas Medicaid Equipment Reuse Project (KEE) with the Vermont Assistive Technology Program, VT Family Network Reuse Project and Vermont Medicaid in April. The KEE program model has been replicated by other states since 2004. Her topic is: Developing a Sustainable Vermont Medicaid Equipment Reuse Program.
- **KATE SAUNDERS, Ph.D.**, recently participated in two back-to-back review panels conducted on behalf of the National Institutes of Health (NIH). One of the Autism Centers of Excellence, Special Emphasis Panels' focus was on Networks and the other on Centers. These

were large, interdisciplinary multi-site project proposals that address the causes and treatment of Autism Spectrum Disorders.

- **KATE SAUNDERS, Ph.D.** is an invited reviewer for the Irish Research Council for Humanities and Social Sciences (IRCHSS) evaluation of Postdoctoral Fellowship applications. The IRCHSS was established in 2000 to fund research opportunities for researchers at postgraduate, postdoctoral and professional levels.
- **SHEILA SIMMONS, M.S.**, Assistive Technology for Kansans Coordinator, is invited to speak to the 2012 Leadership Labette Class, April 12. Her topics include the inclusive, accessible Parsons Community Garden as it begins its third year, a previously federally funded project. She'll also talk about ATK's participation with AgrAbility, a statewide program to serve farmers, ranchers and family members with disabilities or chronic health conditions so they can continue their role in production agriculture and live on the farm independently. ATK operates this program in conjunction with K-State and serves people locally with those resources.

NEW STAFF

CAROL CUMMINGS, B.A.
Research Assistant
Psychology, UNCW



Carol Cummings moved to Parsons from Wilmington, North Carolina, where she received her B.A. in Psychology at the University of North Carolina Wilmington. She is originally from Miami, Florida, but moved to the mountains of North Carolina when she was nine and then to the coast for college. She says, "I found out about this position from a professor I knew in Wilmington, Dr. Christine Hughes. I assisted with some research of hers when I was

attending UNCW and she suggested that I apply for this job. Luckily, I got it!

Coming to Parsons did require me to leave many friends and some family behind in North Carolina. My mother and sister live just a couple of hours from Wilmington, so being this far away is a new experience for us. My father and brothers live in Florida and I've never been this far away from them either. In my spare time I like to do crafts, read, jog, and watch movies. Since hearing about the pool here at the hospital I may take up swimming again, although it has been about 10 years since I was on a swim team.

Parsons is definitely different from Wilmington and will take some getting used to, but everyone is really nice and welcoming so I don't think it will be hard to settle in."

PROJECT NEWS

ATK introduces cutting edge assistive technology at statewide meeting

More than 40 educators, speech-language pathologists (SLPs) and assistive technology (AT) specialists gathered in Wichita on Wednesday, March 28 to take a look at the TAP-it, the first ADA compliant interactive learning station designed to provide accessibility to all students. The TAP-it works with any software on a computer and the interactive workstation responds to a variety of stylists, including pointers, mouth sticks, head pointers, switches/scanners, balls and on-screen keyboards as well as a tap from a finger.

Dr. Richard Heipp, Teach Smart, was enthusiastic about the big screen environment made more accessible with the raise/lower and tilt options for the 42" touch-sensitive LCD panel. In the picture, Dr. Heipp looks on as a volunteer



demonstrates her drawing ability with one finger while leaning against the screen with her other arm. The screen recognized the drawing finger and ignored the leaning arm and many in the audience had an “ah ha” moment as the possibilities for the TAP-it as a tool for children, students and adults became clear.

It's big. And good thing, because at one point Dr. Heipp looped his arms over the top of the screen, lifted his legs up and hung on the screen demonstrating the stability of the counter-balanced platform. For more information about the TAP-it, contact Sheila Simmons, ATK Coordinator at 620-421-8367 or visit the Teach Smart website at www.teachsmart.org/tapit.

Sponsored by Assistive Technology for Kansans (ATK), the statewide assistive technology program with five AT access sites (Parsons, Topeka, Salina, Wichita and Oakley) and an affiliate site in Garden City. Visit the website at www.atk.ku.edu.

Lauren Herren Recommends Customer Service at U.S. Air, Kansas City

Lauren Herren is twenty-one years old, lives in Wichita, attends college, is doing a job trial at an elementary school, uses a power chair and a communication device. When Lauren travels so does her power chair and she needs it to arrive in perfect operating order.

In 2008, Lauren and her mom, Lisa, traveled with another teenager who used a power chair and his mom, by air to Pittsburgh, PA, for a “camp” geared toward AAC (Augmentative and Alternative Communication) users going through the transition from high school to college and employment. Due to a bad experience on a previous airline trip Lauren and her mom had taken, they opted to avoid a connecting flight and

drove directly to Kansas City. Lisa says, “I had done everything we could ahead of time to let the airline, U.S. Air, know we were coming. When we got to the gate, we were met by the ramp supervisor and two ramp agents (the ones who do the actual loading). They were very attentive and patient as we worked through breaking the chairs down for loading, as well as seating our young adults on the plane.

During the process, these two ramp agents inquired as to when we were returning. When we returned two weeks later, they had stayed beyond the end of their shifts to help us deplane, and even helped us load our baggage into our vans! They were absolutely wonderful! We had been so pleased with the assistance we received

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throughout our trip, we wrote several letters of commendation for all the people who had been so helpful.”

In Autumn 2011, Lauren and her parents had the opportunity to fly to Washington, D.C. with Sara Sack, Director, Assistive Technology for Kansans (ATK), to attend a Department of Education presentation on the benefits of assistive technology, November 1-2. It turned out they were taking the same airline. Lisa says, “I went back through my old records to find the names and contact information of the people who had helped us before. I am very glad I kept all the information I had as it had become nigh unto impossible to talk to a real person at the airline who had any more than a very basic understanding of traveling with a power chair. I had a “back number” which allowed me to talk to the U.S. Air ramp supervisor at the airport. It turned out that the original supervisor had been promoted, but I was able to communicate with the current supervisor AND one of the same ramp agents would be working when we departed for this trip as well.

When we arrived, the airline was prepared and had the supervisor come out and meet us.

And then one of the ramp agents from the previous trip, Larry White, came out—and he had brought Lauren a rose. We were so excited to see him again, as well as surprised at his kindness.”

More about the invited presentation to the Rehabilitation Services Administration staff at the U.S. Department of Education can be found in the January 2012 issue of The Insider, <http://www.parsons.lsi.ku.edu/html/Newsletters/Archive.shtml>

Enthusiastic about the attention to Lauren’s

needs prompted Dr. Sack to contact the airline’s customer service director. In her letter, she wrote, “It is with appreciation that we acknowledge U.S. Air, Larry White, the ramp supervisors and agents for going above and beyond to provide Lauren Herren and her family with exemplary customer service.”

Following the November presentation, Dr. Sack received an invitation to speak to the Council of State Administrators of Vocational Rehabilitation (CSAVR)

conference in April in Washington, D.C.

In the picture: Larry White, U.S. Air, smiles for the camera with Lauren Herren.



COMMUNITY SERVICE

2012 LEADERSHIP LABETTE CLASS VISITS LSI PARSONS

Members of the 2012 Leadership Labette Class along with Parsons State Hospital & Training Center’s (PSH&TC) Behavior Supports Class were treated to a morning program exploring the variety of services and other programs at PSH&TC and the LSI at Parsons on March 13. Participants visited the PSH Child

Care Center and were welcomed by KU LSI colleagues Katie Hine, Ph.D. and Renee’ Patrick, Ph.D. Along with Sharla Hopper, director of the PSH Child Care Center, they talked about their work involving supported foster care, autism and outreach services.

Next on the group’s itinerary was the Assistive Technology for Kansans’ (ATK) Technology Center. Sheila Simmons, ATK Coordinator, described the scope of the statewide

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assistive technology program and talked about the Parsons Community Garden activities as it begins its third growing season. Kathy Olson, Ph.D., told the audience about the array of other KU

programs originating from the Parsons LSI group including Southeast Kansas Respite Services, a program celebrating its 21st year of service.

Guests, tour guides and presenters were invited to lunch at the local Campus Cafe’.

ROCK CHALK JAYWALKERS – TEAM UPDATE

The Rock Chalk Jaywalkers have raised just over 66% of its \$3,500 goal, a total of \$2,352.32. Future events include a “Grill Out” Lunch in April (details below), a garage sale on Saturday, May 5, and the PSH&TC annual Boot Block on Wednesday, May 16. If you have anything you’d like to donate to our team’s garage sale please contact Chris Miller at Extension 1641.



Wednesday, April 25 is the “Grill Out” Lunch with burgers and hot dogs at 11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m. For details contact Karen Lawson, Ext. 1618. The Rock Chalk Jaywalkers are selling “Hope” t-shirts (\$10-12 each), walking feet, suns or moons (\$1 each) and luminaria bags (\$5 each). Please contact Debbie Moody if you are interested in any of these items, Ext. 1959.

We appreciate the support shown for our monthly lunches and other fund raising activities. Please continue to help our team by attending one of our fund raising lunches, joining our team, or making a contribution. Webpage: http://main.acsevents.org/site/TR?pg=team&fr_id=39636&team_id=1005637

If you have any questions or would like more information please contact the team’s co-captains: Karen Lawson at klawson@ku.edu / Ext. 1618 or Debbie Moody at dmoody@ku.edu / Ext. 1959.

SPRING E-WASTE RECYCLING EVENT IN PARSONS, APRIL 28, 8 A.M. – NOON

Have you been wondering how to celebrate Earth Day 2012? Here’s a good idea: Mark your calendar for Saturday, April 28 and volunteer with your Life Span Institute at Parsons colleagues and other sponsors to work at the Spring E-waste Recycling event in Parsons, 8 a.m. to Noon at Marvel Park.

Kathy Olson, Ph.D. and e-waste event volunteer, looks on as discarded devices are loaded for recycling.

Accepted items include: televisions, cell phones/phones, computers, monitors, digital cameras, stereos, A/V equipment, microwaves, VCRs, DVD

or CD players, and inkjet toner cartridges. This is a drive-thru collection and as it is no longer a grant funded program, free will donations are accepted to offset the cost of recycling.

Contact Patty Black Moore for volunteer opportunities at pblack@ku.edu.



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five-year-old girl who has Spinal Muscular Atrophy. Based on staff recommendations, she now has an eye gaze communication device and with supported training is able to make requests, comments and ask questions – something she has never been able to do!

- During the same one-year period, 666 devices were **loaned** to Kansans. For some customers, these devices were used while their own was repaired; for others, it was a try-before-you-buy option serving to provide peace of mind, access to a more independent lifestyle and cost savings.
- The Equipment Reuse Program accepted **donations** of durable medical equipment, sanitized it, refurbished as needed and gave it to Kansans who needed it, saving the State of Kansas \$900,605.00. The nationally lauded assistive technology program is recognized as an example of “Best Practices” by the United States Centers on Medicaid and Medicare.
- 420 devices worth \$1,146,906.00 were funded with a variety of public and private **funding** sources such as Kansas Rehabilitation Services, Kansas Medicaid, Infant Toddler Services, public education, Medicare, Veterans Affairs, private health insurance, Rural Housing Grants, Friends of Man and others. ATK also works with the Kansas AT Cooperative (KATCO) offering flexible preferred rate financial loans for AT devices and services.

Dr. Sack shared this quote from a parent: “Our daughter will continue to need support throughout her life, but because of the services that have been provided since she was small and the access to assistive technology, she will be a much more independent and productive member of society. The returns seem large compared to the relatively small funding price of the program, especially when you consider that it helps minimize or avoid other costs that would be necessary if Kansans like our daughter did not have access to the technology.”

Renee’ Patrick, Ph.D., talked about the Dual Diagnosis Treatment Services Outreach Program and the Autism Assessment Clinic. Dr. Patrick highlighted the statewide Outreach Program’s success at helping individuals maintain community placement. The program offers staff training on behavioral interventions, training on different diagnostic and behavioral profiles and individual behavioral profiles. The program receives more than 100 referrals per year and completes approximately 85 consultations.

The Outreach Autism Assessment Clinic opened in southeast Kansas in 2009 and offers families more local access to diagnostic testing by a licensed psychologist using state of the art assessment tools, parent behavioral consultations and advocacy and referral services. The clinic has received more than 150 referrals since 2009.

Katie Hine, Ph.D. described the evidence-based staff skills training that PSH Child Care Center has in place. All teachers learn skills focused on the development of positive adult-child interactions, such as, rotation of attention to all children in the area and providing descriptive praise for good behavior. The team found that, although more gradual, staff performance of untrained skills has also improved. Dr. Hine explained that much of the success of the Family Care Project is built around the same skills taught to foster and birth parents who, in turn, are experiencing the same success with their children. Katie has good news about the Family Care Project – check for the “rest of the story” in the July issue.

After lunch, Deputy Secretary Haulmark listened to a presentation by the PSH&TC Franklin Covey Coaches describing a new way to increase supports, built on a solid foundation of existing supports and implemented by those closest to the individual resident – the cottage staff.

Jerry Rea, Ph.D., Mike Dixon, Ph.D. and Ron Malmstrom presented their work on the Sex Offender Program completing the tour.