



The Insider

Life Span Institute at Parsons

May 2009

Patty Black Moore, Editor

KU Volunteers Help Collect 30,202 Pounds of E-Waste in Parsons



Hundreds of electronic items were recycled at the Parsons E-Waste Recycling Day, April 18, 2009 co-sponsored by the University of Kansas Life Span Institute (LSI) at Parsons, along with SEK Recycling (Pittsburg), K-State Research and Extension and the City of Parsons. Citizens of Labette, Neosho, Crawford, Cherokee and Wilson counties in southeast Kansas were invited to bring their unwanted televisions, computers, monitors, microwaves and other electronic devices to recycle at no charge.

In response to popular demand, the City of Parsons extended the one-day schedule and collected additional unwanted electronic equipment from businesses and schools on Monday. By the end of the added day, Kari West, public information officer for the city of Parsons said, "...we loaded all four pup trailers. We collected more than 30,000 lbs. of e-waste

that would have probably gone to a landfill." According to Tausha Clinton of SEK Recycling, "It was the biggest load we've ever shipped."

Fifteen volunteers represented LSI at Parsons staff, family and friends all clad in the new KU at Parsons t-shirts. Though only asked to sign up for a two-hour shift, most volunteers braved the rainy day and stayed well into the afternoon. According to West, an estimated 25 to 30 volunteers helped with the Parsons e-waste collection event.

Keith Martin, Labette County Extension Agent, K-State Research and Extension said, "Your group really came through and made the event a success. KU blue was well represented, I felt a little lonely in my purple. It is amazing what can happen when everyone works together for a common good." *...continued on page 6*

“Just the STATS”

Life Span Institute at Parsons, home of:

- The only National Institute of Health-funded research program on reading in individuals with intellectual disabilities
- A translational research program on self-injurious and aggressive behavior in individuals with developmental disabilities
- A nationally lauded assistive technology program that was recently recognized as an example of “Best Practices” by the Centers on Medicaid and Medicare

Learn more at our website, <http://www.parsons.lsi.ku.edu>

Project Highlight

Postdoctoral Training in Translational IDD Research

This new five-year grant received by Kate Saunders, Ph.D., is funded by the National Institute on Health. The grant start date is July 1, 2009. John Colombo, Ph.D. is co-director.

Project faculty include Drs. Steven Barlow, Nancy Brady, Judith Carta, Hugh Catts, Marc Fey, Stephen Fowler, Charles Greenwood, Todd Little, Joseph Steinmetz, Steven Warren and Dean Williams.



Project Summary

Kate Saunders and John Colombo, both highly skilled researchers who hold outstanding track records mentoring trainees, are in the midst of preparations to co-direct their new Postdoctoral Training in Translational Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDD) Research program. Noting that the focus on translational research in IDD is a national priority, Dr. Saunders says, “The objective of this postdoctoral training program is to promote the development of the next generation of researchers who address the problems of intellectual and developmental disabilities.”

The program’s goal is to support a broad, interdisciplinary perspective that integrates basic research with application. Progress in understanding and treating IDD will require a translational research effort that entails not only the flow of knowledge from basic research to the solution of clinical problems, but also the laboratory investigation of the behavioral and biological mechanisms that underlie these problems. That is, the transformational cycles of science result at the intersection of basic and applied research.



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The recognition of the translational nature of basic and applied research is a vital aspect of contemporary training in translational research.

Exemplifying a collaborative perspective, the new postdoctoral training program brings together 13 multidisciplinary researchers who have extensive experience in training predoctoral and postdoctoral students. Together these mentors, in diverse but interrelated areas, including psychology, speech-language-hearing, pharmacology and toxicology, applied behavioral science, special education, and molecular bioscience are highly accomplished researchers with histories of collaboration, both with one another and with investigators from other universities and IDD research centers. Their programs of research fit the translational profile, they are dedicated to the field of intellectual and developmental disabilities, and they have clear commitments to, and successful track records in the mentoring and placement of postdoctoral trainees.

It is expected that the leadership team and faculty, with their wide-ranging expertise, are likely to draw a relatively unique but important cadre of students in post-doctoral training.

The training program will involve a total of twelve post-doctoral fellows over five years in the translational research labs among the 13 primary mentors. Training plans will evolve from discussions between the mentor (s) and the trainee with an emphasis on how the trainee's research skills will be expanded, determining the research questions to be addressed, how those questions fit within a translational research program and how projects are related to IDD. Additionally, trainees will participate in a twice-monthly seminar series addressing professional development, current issues in IDD, and illustrate how the translational research programs of the mentors take a basic-science approach to addressing clinical problems.

Looking forward as the selection process begins, Saunders said, "We're hoping to continue this training grant for many happy, competitive renewals." For more information contact Dr. Kate Saunders, [ksaunders@ku.edu](mailto:k Saunders@ku.edu)



Emergency Management Planning and Response in Southeast Kansas

Jim Cook, Labette County Emergency Management Director says if you are looking for a gift for a loved one living in southeast Kansas, "Give them a NOAA radio". In the first 2009 LSI Brown Bag Presentation on April 9, Cook listed the biggest threats to southeast Kansans as weather related, snow, ice, hail, wind and flood. Attendees acknowledged these facts as Cook made arrangements to use LSI

office space so that he could sit in on the latest of many weather alert briefings experienced this spring.

Cook explained that the emergency management process of coordinating available resources to deal with emergencies effectively involves four phases: 1) mitigation or identifying ways to limit the danger; 2) preparation or planning ahead; 3) response, the coordinated mobilization after the event; and 4) recovery, the process of putting things back as close as possible.

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Emergency Management ...from page 3

With regard to people with disabilities, Cook acknowledged the work done by Assistive Technology for Kansans (ATK) in their response to seven recent disasters in Kansas. ATK is named in the Kansas state plan and the county resource list as the coordinating resource for durable medical equipment, such as wheelchairs, home care beds and patient lifts as well as the gateway to more than 25 equipment loan closets statewide. Assistive technology (AT) becomes a life and safety issue in a

disaster, however there is no state published plan that directly outlines essential steps to support people with disabilities.

Planning and preparation continues as Labette County agencies, organizations, businesses and citizens work together to become better prepared to serve the needs of all individuals including those with disabilities and chronic health issues when an emergency occurs.

This Brown Bag Presentation was sponsored by Assistive Technology for Kansans (ATK).

Williams recognized as Senior Scientist

Dean Williams received a promotion to the rank of Senior Scientist from University of Kansas Chancellor Hemenway, effective with his 2009-2010 appointment. Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor Richard Lariviere, in his congratulatory letter, said, "Promotion in rank, coming as it does as a result of evaluation and recommendation by one's peers, is the most visible way the University has to recognize achievement and merit. I have the happy responsibility of communicating to you the esteem with which you are regarded by your colleagues, and of expressing to you, on their behalf, the hope that you will enjoy many more years of productive association with the University."



Life Span Institute at Parsons director, Dave Lindeman said, "All of us at Parsons LSI congratulate Dean on this significant and well deserved milestone."

Presentations

Hine, K., Major, S., & Stanley, R. A. (2008, November). *Supporting Caregivers and Families with Children and Youth with Challenging Behavior*. Paper presented at the meeting of the International Child and Adolescent Conference XIV, Minneapolis, MN.

Hine, K., & Major, S. (2009, April). *Southeast Kansas Foster Care Treatment: Oasis for Applied Research*. Pro-seminar presented to the Department of Applied Behavior Sciences, University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS.

Sack, S. (2009, April 22). *Preparing for and responding to a disaster: Equipment reutilization programs can be an important part of disaster planning*. Collaborations and Partnerships: Infusing AT into Work and the Community, 2009 Annual Conference of AT Act Programs, Philadelphia, PA.

Staff News

Laura Cruz has accepted a new position as Quality Assurance Coordinator with the Early Childhood Services of Southeast Kansas Community Action Program, Inc. in Girard. Cruz enjoyed a successful 18-year career at the LSI at Parsons, most recently working with Drs. Chris Smith, Dean Williams, Kate Saunders and David Lindeman.

Kate Saunders, Ph.D. has been elected as a member-at-large of the Executive Council of the Association for Behavioral Analysis International (ABAI). Dr. Saunders notes that the Executive Council sets policy and direction and oversees the operation of all components of the organization including involvement in events such as the upcoming 35th Annual ABAI Convention in Phoenix, May 22-26, with an expected attendance of 4,000 participants from more than 40 countries.

Kate Saunders, Ph.D. has accepted an invitation by the Association for Behavior Analysis International to serve as an invited speaker for the 2010 ABAI Autism Conference. Dr. Saunders will speak on Applications of Behavioral Stimulus Control Procedures in Autism.

Chris Smith, Ph.D. has accepted a position as the new director of the Maryland Center for Developmental Disabilities at Kennedy Krieger Institute, the State of Maryland's official University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities Education, Research, and Service.

Project Update

KRS & ATK Collaborate on a Demographic and Outcomes Effort for Assistive Technology Services to Kansans

Kansas Rehabilitation Services (KRS) and Assistive Technology for Kansans (ATK) are working together to provide assistive technology services to Kansans with disabilities and chronic health conditions who are ineligible for assistive technology services from public funding agencies. In March 2008, Dr. Sara Sack, ATK program director and Sheila Simmons, ATK program coordinator, presented demographic data for customers served by ATK and data on the goals and assistive technology devices needed. Based on these data, KRS was interested in obtaining more detailed information about individuals who lack third party supports in the pursuit of their assistive technology goals.

ATK is currently collecting more detailed demographic data concerning primary and secondary disabilities, education, residential

situation, benefit eligibility, assistive technology services needed and outcomes as a result of services. Initial data indicates that while working age Kansans remain the largest segment of customers (49%) lacking supports for services, Kansas seniors is a rapidly growing segment of consumers served (37%). Preliminary data indicate that leading primary disabilities for individuals without third party supports were neurological disabilities, vision, hearing and chronic physical health condition.

Outcomes data is broken into community living, education and employment since these are the priorities for statewide assistive technology programs. The leading outcomes in these areas respectively, were increased independence in personal care, ability to participate in the least restrictive environment in school, and to maintain or improve current employment. Funding on this initiative continues through September, 2009 which will provide twelve months of data to more clearly define this segment of ATK's customer base and analyze the impact of services in their lives.

~ Sheila Simmons

Scheduled Events

June 15, 2009

The Science and Art of Behavioral Autism Interventions, Designing Programs with Evidence and Compassion, workshop, June 15, 2009, Parsons, KS, sponsored by The Southeast Kansas Foster Care Treatment Project. Featured presenter, Shahla Alai-Rosales, Ph.D., BCBA. For more information or to register, call Peggy Gentry, 620-421-6550, extension 1879

June 16-19, 2009

Evidence Based Practices for Effective Collaboration with Families at the KITS Summer Institute 2009, June 16-19, 2009, Lawrence, KS. For more information or to register, see the KITS website at <http://kskits.org/training/KITSSummerInst.shtml>

November 6-7, 2009

Autism Across the Life Span: A Conference for Professionals and Families, November 6-7, 2009, Wichita, KS. For more information contact Kathleen Olson, Ph.D., kolson@ku.edu or 620-421-6550, extension 1771

KU Volunteers ...from page 1

SEK Recycling received a grant from the Kansas Department of Health and Environment to collect e-waste for recycling. Parsons was the first regional collection day and was officially declared a success by the Parsons Sun newspaper. Television news teams covered the event for Channel 7, Pittsburg and Channel 12, Joplin.



Chuck Delp, SEK Recycling executive director said that the e-waste would be delivered to Assets

LifeCycle, Topeka, a KDHE permitted e-waste processor. Typically, the e-waste processor charges a \$5.00 fee to recycle each monitor and \$15.00 to recycle each television. A single truckload of 20 monitors saved one savvy recycler \$100 on Saturday. Tony Grady, Technical Liaison for Life Span Institute at Parsons said, "We recycled computers, monitors, keyboards, UPSs (uninterruptible power supply), printers and

miscellaneous electronics. The e-waste collection program saved us time and money as well as freeing space in our storage room." Another e-waste collection day is scheduled for May 30 in Altamont from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Pictures, upper right: Sharon Morton and Kaitlin & Laura Hanigan show off the KU at Parsons t-shirts. Left: Dean Williams and Laura Hanigan move a television to the recycling pallet as Dave Lindeman looks on.

