



*The Insider*

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***Life Span Institute at Parsons***

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*January, 2006*

*Pat White, Editor*

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### **Announcement**

David Lindeman has received a request from the Head Start Bureau to include clips from two videotapes on inclusion he developed in the mid 90s in a CD/DVD being developed for the 40th Anniversary celebration for the Head Start Program.

Kate Saunders has been invited to contribute a paper to an upcoming special issue of *Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities Research Reviews*, an “international forum for the exchange of novel and significant information on broad aspects of developmental disabilities.” The issue, which is being edited by Len Abbeduto and Steve Warren, will be devoted to the topic of communication and language development and intervention, and Kate’s paper will address issues related to reading and literacy. The journal has a very high impact factor in several different academic disciplines. The invitation noted that a small number of highly respected individuals received invitations.

### **Honors**

Jeannie Fiscus, the Infant/Toddler Specialist with the Child Care Focus Resource and Referral Program, has been invited to be a member of the Advisory Committee for the National Infant & Toddler Child Care Initiative of Zero to Three. One of the initial activities she will be involved in is the planning of a pre-institute day for the Annual Zero to Three Conference.

Sara Sack has been appointed to the USDE’s Rehabilitation Services Administration Task Force on Reutilization of Technology.

### **Grants Submitted**

Kate Saunders submitted the Recombinative Generalization of Within-syllable Units in MR November 1, 2005.

### **Grants and Contracts Funded and/or Renewed**

Chris Smith has been notified that he has received funding for “Evaluating the Ohio Quality Assurance Systems Change Initiative” for \$50,000 from 01/01/06 – 06/30/07. The objective of this evaluation project is to evaluate whether or not the Ohio CMS Systems Change Project has met its stated objectives. The evaluation methods will include interviews, focus groups, document reviews, and surveys.

## Presentations

Castles, S., Hammond, M., Kraemer, P., Luciano, J., Sack, S., Scione, M., & Tachau, S. (2005, December). *Alternative financing programs*. Presentation at the World Congress & Exposition on Disabilities Conference, Philadelphia, PA.

Lindeman, D. P. (2005, November). *Kansas inservice training system: Initiative and services*. Three posters presented at the 2005 Midwest Faculty Institute: Natural Allies in Early Education, Kansas City, MO.

## Publications

Saunders, K. J., O'Donnell, J., Williams, D. C., & Spradlin, J. E. (in press). Derived conditional position discrimination in individuals without naming skills. *The Psychological Record*.

## Project Highlight

### **Alzheimer's Association, Heart of America Chapter, Southeast Kansas Regional Office**

John von Wedell

The Southeast Kansas Regional Office of the Alzheimer's Association, Heart of America Chapter, has been located in the KUCDD Building in Parsons for 3 years and serves persons who have a family member with Alzheimer's Disease or a dementia type illness. Programs and services are offered in six counties and include Breakfast Clubs for Caregivers, Victor Trower Arts and Inspiration Center, Safe Return, Family Service Fund, educational conferences, information for individuals and families, community awareness, and a quarterly newsletter. Services are often provided in cooperation with other agencies such as Southeast Kansas Respite Services and Area Agency on Aging. Services are supported by the community through donations, program grants, and participation in fundraising events.

## Staff News

Phoebe Pinkel has joined the staff of the Kansas Inservice Training Program (KITS). Phoebe has extensive experience with infants, toddlers, and preschool children. While working in schools, she has provided leadership on projects that focused on staff training, intervention/teaching strategies, and autism.