



The Insider

Life Span Institute at Parsons

July 2011

Patty Black Moore, Editor

Parsons Research Recognized

Parsons researchers are among a small group of individuals who have published in both the flagship basic research journal, *Journal of the Experimental Analysis of Behavior (JEAB)* and the flagship journal of applied research, *Journal of Applied Behavior Analysis (JABA)* in the past 5 years.

Kate Saunders (above right) and Dean Williams (far right) are senior scientists at Parsons, Adam Doughty was a postdoctoral trainee at Parsons, Shannon Doughty conducted her dissertation work at Parsons and Cynthia Anderson was Shannon’s advisor at West Virginia University. Shannon’s dissertation resulted in a sequence of two papers by all five authors with publication in both journals. They are among 38 authors with at least one article in both *JEAB* and *JABA* from 2006 through 2010.

In their article, *Translational Research: It’s not 1960s Behavior Analysis*, Alan Poling and Timothy Edwards note, “only 3.6% of the total number of authors (38 of 1,061) published in both journals.” Inclusion in this small group of researchers with proven skills in both basic and applied research emphasizes the breadth of expertise and knowledge for which the Parsons Research Center is well known.

Among other projects and research activities, Drs. Saunders and Williams, along with nine other University of Kansas faculty from several academic departments, serve as mentors with the Postdoctoral Training in Translational Research on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities training program



preparing trainees for a translational research career. Poling and Edwards’ article concludes, “In a 2010 special issue of *JEAB* devoted to translational research ... the journal’s editor, James Mazur, wrote the following:”

In the five decades of JEAB’s existence, basic research has produced a wealth of new knowledge about the behavior of individual organisms. The recent growth

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“Just the STATS”

Sixty-four early child care professionals gathered in Lawrence June 7-10, 2011, to participate in the **KITS 2011 Summer Institute: *Achieving Early Childhood Outcomes by Implementing Differentiated Learning Opportunities that are Intentional, Focused and Developmentally Appropriate.***

Sponsored by the Kansas Inservice Training System (KITS), the Institute included speakers from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, Ohio State University, University of Kansas and the Life Span Institute at Parsons including Misty Goosen, Ed.S., Phoebe Rinkel, M.S., and Kim Page, M.S., among others.

The KITS Summer Institute is open to all people working with children in Kansas; but priority is given to those professionals working with children, birth to eight, who have disabilities. KITS 2012 Summer Institute will be June 5 to 8, 2012, in Wichita. More information is available at <http://kskits.org/training/KITSSummerInst.shtml>.

PROJECT SPOTLIGHT



Connecting Kansans and Supporting Increased Independence and Employment Through Access to Technology

Sara Sack, Ph.D. is the Project Director. The project is funded by Kansas Social and Rehabilitation Services.

Project Coordinator: Sheila Simmons, M.A.

Subcontractors/Collaborating Agencies: Western Assistive Technology Access Site, Northwest Kansas Educational Service Center, Oakley; North Central Assistive Technology Access Site, Occupational Center of Central Kansas, Salina; Northeast Assistive Technology Access Site, Resource Center for Independent Living, Topeka; South Central Assistive Technology Access Site, Wichita; Southeast Assistive Technology Access Site, Southeast Kansas Independent Living, Parsons



Project Summary

This project prioritizes support of consumer directed device demonstrations and short-term borrowing of devices to address the needs of eligible vocational rehabilitation customers who are blind or visually

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impaired. Project funds are used to increase the assistive technology vision device inventory for loan and demonstration available through the ATK Loan System. Qualified ATK Loan System and AT Access staff provide technical assistance to help individuals narrow device options and use the device effectively during the loan period.

ATK Loan System staff and AT Access Site staff conduct a variety of public awareness activities to promote acquisition of loan and demonstration inventory to increase the numbers of eligible individuals who use these services. A priority of this outreach effort includes conducting workshops with centers for independent living to promote use of vision technology in competitive employment settings.

PRESENTATIONS

- Goosen, M., & Jones, J. J. (2011, June). *Primer for early childhood professionals on the Kansas multi-tier system of supports*. Presented at KITS 2011 Summer Institute, Lawrence, KS.
- Hayashi, Y., Ezekwe, I., Caccavale, M., Tsau, S., Robertson, S. H., & Saunders, K. J. (2011, May). *Instructional programming for early reading skills: Consonant clusters*. Poster sessions presented at the annual meeting of the Association for Behavior Analysis International, Denver, CO.
- Hayashi, Y., Williams, D. C., Brewer, A. T., Madden, G. J., Fowler, S. C., & Saunders, K. J. (2011, May). *Rich-to-lean transition induced aggression: Animal model of chronic aberrant behavior*. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Association for Behavior Analysis International, Denver, CO.

PUBLICATIONS

- Saunders, K. (2011). Designing instructional programming for early reading skills. In W. W. Fisher, C. C. Piazza, & H. S. Roane (Eds.), *Handbook of applied behavior analysis* (pp. 92-109). New York, NY: The Guilford Press.
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- Saunders, M. D., Questad, K. A., Cullinan, T. B. & Saunders, R. R. (2011), Adapted digital music players for individuals with severe impairments. *Behavioral Interventions*, 26(2), 161-166.
- Saunders, R. R., Saunders, M. D., Donnelly, J. E., Smith, B. K., Sullivan, D. K., Guilford, B., & Rondon, M. F. (2011). Evaluation of an approach to weight loss in adults with intellectual or developmental disabilities. *Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities*, 49(2), 103-112.
- Saunders, R. R., & Saunders, M. D. (2011). Innovation of a reinforce preference assessment with the difficult to test. *Research in Developmental Disabilities*, 32(5), 1572-1579. Presently online at: <http://www.sciencedirect.com.www2.lib.ku.edu:2048/science/journal/08914222>

STAFF PROFILE



**PEGGY A.
GENTRY**

Project Assistant

**Southeast
Kansas Family
Care Treatment
Project**

I have always worked on grants and find it exciting changing jobs every three to five years. I have worked on research programs with young children with severe and multiple disabilities concentrating on language, self help and vocational skills. I worked for the Title One Program and The Special Purpose School at PHS&TC and for three years for the University of Oregon under Tom Bellamy on vocational training packages that were marketed to consumers. I have also worked for Greenbush on various projects from on-the-job vocational training to assistive technology and teaching students with behavior disorders in the Science Center. Before coming to work with the Family Care Treatment Project, I was the coordinator for a 4-county, in-school volunteer mentoring program called YouthFriends.

The most important aspect of my job is that I call project parents/foster parents on a daily basis to collect behavioral data about our clients. After meeting with parents and observing clients in home and school settings, project therapists compile a list of questions that cover behavioral areas the parents want to address and behaviors they want to see changed. All the questions are stated in a positive manner so parents are looking for appropriate behavior as opposed to inappropriate behavior. I collect the data and the therapists graph the data to evaluate if the behavior programs they have developed for the parents to implement are working. These

graphs are distributed to the parent so they can also see their child's progress.

I think calling the families on a daily basis builds a relationship between the family contact person and our project so families feel comfortable in opening up to me and trusting me with issues related not only to their child but to their life in general. Sometimes I can be the ear they need or their sounding board.

Reinforcing the parents for being consistent in working with their child and dealing appropriately with the targeted behaviors helps to let them know they are on the right track and gives them confidence that they can handle their child and make a change in their child's behavior.

Obviously, if the parents are on board and following our program, they, as well as their child, benefit. Parents and children get along better and enjoy being with each other. Parents understand why their child is reacting the way they are and understand that behaviors can be changed through consistency and their appropriate modeling, but it may be a long process.

The most rewarding experience was working with a great foster family with three foster siblings and during that time all three were placed in homes with plans for adoption. Happy ending!!!

I graduated from Pittsburg State University with a BS in Social Science with an emphasis on Social Work. I have graduate hours from the University of Kansas with an emphasis in Students with Special Needs and graduate hours from Pittsburg State University, Vocational Special Needs Certification K-12.

I am married to Bill, for 21 years. I have a 29 year-old stepson, Brett and we have two dogs, Micki and Moose. I am a huge KU basketball fan!!! I have two great nieces and a great nephew in KC that I love visiting as often as I can!

COMMUNITY SERVICE



E-Waste Recycling Collection Set for August 20 in Parsons

PARSONS, KS — Southeast Kansas Recycling in cooperation with the City of Parsons, K-State Research & Extension-Wildcat District, Higher Calling Technologies, LLC, the University of Kansas Life Span Institute at Parsons and Waste Corporation are hosting a Labette County E-

Waste Collection on Saturday, August 20 from 9 a.m. to Noon at Marvel Park in Parsons.

Acceptable items include: televisions, computer systems, monitors, VCRs, CD players, DVD players, printers, scanners, microwaves, stereo systems, cell phones, digital cameras, video cameras, and other types of audio/visual equipment, etc.

This e-waste collection is open to individuals and businesses. In the past, this has been a free household program funded by a grant from KDHE. Grant funding has ended, however, the volunteer group is currently seeking donations and sponsors for the event.

Kari West, City of Parsons, said, "This has been a very successful recycling program. We have diverted nearly eight tractor-trailer loads of e-waste from our landfill since the program started over two years ago."

The volunteer recycling group plans to host another collection in Labette County, most likely in Oswego later this fall. LSI at Parsons has been a co-sponsor since April 2009. If you would like to volunteer to work at the August 20 E-Waste Recycling Event, contact Patty Black Moore, pablack@ku.edu to sign up.

SEPTEMBER 8 - 9, 2011 Assistive Technology for Kansans AT EXPO 2011

Conference & Exhibit Hall

Thursday, September 8, 12 Noon – 6 PM

Friday, September 9, 8:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Do you know someone who has problems living in their home, going to work or school due to a chronic health condition or disability? Do you want to learn about the latest technology to support your successful college career, vocational training or job search?



The AT EXPO 2011 Conference & Exhibit Hall - More than 90 exhibits of assistive technology, durable medical equipment and solutions for home, community work and school!

CEUs available. For more information and session descriptions, www.regonline.com/atexpo2011

Want a **FREE TICKET** to the **AT EXPO 2011 Exhibit Hall**? Call your regional AT Access Site: **800-KAN DO IT (800-526-3648)**.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Rock Chalk Jaywalkers Contribute to Relay For Life

In the picture: (back row, left) Karen Lawson, Patti Blake, Debbie Moody; (front row, left) Kathy Olson, Diane Salyers, Chris Miller, LaShall Snider.



Eleven co-workers from the KU LSI at Parsons teamed up to raise \$1,680.83 for the 2011 Labette County Relay For Life, held June 17 at Forest Park in Parsons. Karen Lawson, team captain, “chalked” their success up to variety and synergy. “As our initial meeting was in early April, we had only ten weeks to reach our goal of \$1,000. We brainstormed and worked together.”

Kathy Olson, team member, is credited with suggesting the team name. Lawson explained, “Each of us had a different reason for wanting to participate. Most of the team members had worked with Robin Bayless, who lost her battle with cancer this past February. All of us hate cancer and want to see it cured, so we came together to try to make a difference.” Additional Rock Chalk Jaywalkers include: Patti Blake, Cynthia Huebner, Dave Lindeman, Chris Miller, Debbie Moody (co-captain), Kristi Nelson, Diane Salyers, LaShall Snider and Lou Ann White.

Many coworkers, friends and family members donated items to a garage/bake sale on May 21, which raised \$500. Individual cash contributions and luminaria sales made up the balance of this year’s team donation.

The Rock Chalk Jaywalkers have decided to raise funds throughout the coming year for the 2012 Relay For Life, and hope everyone will support them by participating when possible. The following are just a few of their planned activities.

Once-a-month lunches will include great food and a time for campus co-worker

socializing for a minimal donation. These will be scheduled from 11:30 am – 1:00 pm in the UCDD Media Studio. The first lunch was held on Tuesday, July 26, with a menu of “Summer Salads & Desserts” and was hosted by Kathy Olson & Karen Lawson. Over twenty UCDD and PSHTC employees who attended the lunch contributed \$166.

Mark your calendars for the next two lunches.

- Wednesday, August 31 – “Grilled Burgers & Dogs” hosted by Dave Lindeman & Kristi Nelson
- Tuesday, September 20 – “September Soups” hosted by Cynthia Huebner & Kim Page

The “Change Bandit” will collect spare change from anyone willing to donate from his or her pocket, purse or desk drawer. A little spare change can help add up to a big team donation at the end of the year!

The second annual Garage/Bake Sale will be held on Saturday, May 5, 2012. Chris Miller has agreed to host the event again, and will begin accepting donated items next spring.

Karen and Debbie invite others to join the Rock Chalk Jaywalkers by contacting any team member or by attending the next team meeting on Tuesday, September 13 at Noon in the UCDD conference room.



Lidia Postalli Passes her Dissertation Defense on July 8

Lidia Postalli, Brazil, spent her semester abroad with Kate Saunders at the Parsons Research Center during the fall of 2010. It was with pleasure that we received news that she indeed, has passed her dissertation defense. Congratulations from all of us! Dr. Saunders, who recently visited colleagues at Sao Carlos, noted, “Deisy, Martha, Julio and I are longtime friends and colleagues. I am delighted that they sent such a good student to work on our lab!”

From left to right: Deisy de Souza (Universidade Federal de São Carlos Lidia’s supervisor); Maria Amalia Andery (Pontifícia Universidade Católica de São Paulo); Maria Martha Hübner (Universidade de São Paulo); Lidia Postalli; Júlio de Rose (Universidade Federal de São Carlos) and Andréia Schmidt (Universidade de São Paulo).

Parsons Research Recognized

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of the quantity and variety of translational research is a sign that the time is right for tapping into this reservoir of data, theoretical explanations, and concepts, and demonstrating their importance outside the laboratory. (p. 292)

Researchers at Parsons agree.

References

- Mazur, J. (2010). Editorial: Translational research in JEAB. *Journal of the Experimental Analysis of Behavior*, 93, 291-292.
- Poling, A., & Edwards, T. L. (2011). Translational research: It’s not 1960s behavior analysis. *The Behavior Analyst*, 34, 23-26.

Website

Postdoctoral Training in Translational Research on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (website):

http://www2.ku.edu/~lsi/research/projects/Saunders_K/post-doc_training_DD_translational.shtml)

Visit the Life Span Institute (LSI) at Parsons website at <http://www.parsons.lsi.ku.edu>